

# Border Fox is shot and held in gun battle

## Army and police move in as car crashes at check-point

By John Cooney

Dessie O'Hare, Ireland's most wanted terrorist and the leader of a gang which kidnapped a Dublin dentist and was wounded and captured yesterday in a gun battle with police and soldiers at Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny.

O'Hare, aged 29, from Co. Armagh, and known as the Border Fox, was shot in the arms, leg and chest when he drove a green BMW at a check-point manned by security forces.

Security sources said last night that O'Hare had first driven through a check-point supervised by unarmed police. His car came round a bend and was confronted with a second check-point reinforced by armed detectives and soldiers.

O'Hare began shooting at the security forces who returned fire. The BMW crashed into two police cars blocking the road.

After about 50 shots had been fired, police waited for 10 minutes before moving in on the car where they saw a man slumped dead in the passenger seat.

They heard O'Hare, who was in the driver's seat, screaming that he was in pain.

O'Hare, who had vowed to be killed rather than be taken alive in any confrontation with the police, pleaded with them to be treated gently. With help from police officers he limped to an ambulance.

He was taken to St Luke's Hospital in Kilkenny town where he underwent surgery. A hospital spokesman said:

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last night that O'Hare was "serious but not critical."

The dead passenger was named as Martin Bryan, who was born in Londonderry but had been living in Kilkenny. He was one of O'Hare's right-hand men and is suspected of having been involved in the murder of an Irish National Liberation Army informer three years ago.

A soldier, Denis Harrington, aged 24, was given first aid for a flesh wound in his lower left leg.

The incident took place at 1.35pm at Minsters Cross close to the village of Urlingford. It was a secondary road, near the main Cork to Dublin road.

Local sources suggested that O'Hare's capture was the result of a tip-off that he had been seen in the locality. Scores of police and soldiers had been in the area from early yesterday and had blocked off roads and had carried shoppers in special lorries to and from Urlingford.

But last night security forces insisted that the capture arose out of the nationwide hunt by a 7,000-strong joint police and army force for weapons believed to have been imported into the republic for use by the IRA.

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, last night offered his Government's congratulations and gratitude to the individual members of the police and the army.

He praised "the success of the massive security operation of the last week which has resulted in the arrest of Dessie

O'Hare." Mr Haughey also wished the wounded soldier a speedy recovery.

"The Irish people owe a great debt of gratitude to those who serve them so well and so bravely and who have brought a great sense of relief and reassurance to us all," Mr Haughey said.

O'Hare's capture was sweet revenge for the Irish police who had been humiliated time and again by the fugitive.

Although Mr John O'Grady, the dentist, was freed on Thursday, November 5, only hours before a £1.5 million was about to be paid to the kidnappers for his release, O'Hare succeeded in escaping arrest.

Police had also failed to capture the gang and free Mr O'Grady on Monday, October 26, when about 20 armed detectives located them with Mr O'Grady in a remote farm house in Middleton, Co. Cork. The gang escaped with Mr O'Grady in a shoot-out.

Mr Gerry Collins, the Minister for Justice, was delighted and relieved at yesterday's capture.

On Wednesday, police discovered a sophisticated underground hideout near Gort, Co. Galway. They believe that this was to have been used by the IRA for hoarding the 150 tons of arms, ammunition and explosives seized by the French authorities from the ship Eksund.

This week's huge hunt has also resulted in the arrest and detention of four Maze prison escapees. Two of them, Dermot Finnucane and Paul Anthony Kane, have appeared before the courts and are being held in custody.

Yesterday, Mr Kane's lawyers obtained a habeas corpus order for their client to appear before the High Court in Dublin tomorrow.

Early yesterday police arrested two other Maze escapees in Dublin. They are Seamus Pius Clarke, aged 31, from Donegal, who was sentenced to 18 years for attempted murder in 1979, and Anthony Edward Kelly, aged 26, of Londonderry, who was sentenced to indefinite life for the killing of a reserve policeman in the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

# Ban on GCHQ secrets report

By Martin Fletcher  
Political Reporter

The Attorney General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, yesterday obtained a High Court injunction to prevent a journalist disclosing highly classified information about the Government's GCHQ communications centre outside Cheltenham.

It emerged that in the course of raids on the London home of Mr Duncan Campbell at the height of last January's Zircon spy satellite affair the police had discovered a document - unrelated to Zircon - that detailed information passed to him by a former middle-ranking officer of GCHQ, now retired.

That officer is Mr Alex Lawrie, a Labour councillor on Gloucestershire County Council, whose Cheltenham home was raided by police in May this year. He refused to make any comment last night.

The Foreign Office, which is responsible for GCHQ, said last night that it had been very concerned about the discovery of the document, but that Mr Lawrie would not be prosecuted because of the danger of classified information surfacing in open court.

Instead, Mr Lawrie has been asked through his solicitor for an undertaking that he would make no further disclosures.

News of this latest twist in the Government's tortuous attempts to preserve official secrecy came as Sir Patrick announced, to widespread derision, that no prosecutions were to be pursued against anyone involved in the revelations about the top-secret Zircon spy satellite affair.

Although the Government had managed to prevent the BBC from screening the offending programme in the Secret Society series, both Mr Campbell and the New Statesman magazine appeared to have blatantly breached the Official Secrets Act by publishing the account.

And despite Special Branch raids on Mr Campbell's home, on the offices of the New Statesman, and on the BBC's offices in Glasgow, all heavily criticised in the Commons at the time, it is understood that the source of Mr Campbell's information has not been discovered. There is no evidence that Mr Lawrie was also the source of the Zircon information.

"Having considered with the Director of Public Prosecutions all the relevant factors, including in particular

Continued on page 24, col 5

# Firemen honour King's Cross victim



Members of Station Officer Colin Townsley's family following their father's coffin as it was taken to St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, yesterday. (Photograph: John Rogers)

# Farewell to a 'true hero'

By Alan Hamilton

No military rituals attend the deaths of firemen, no gun carriage bears them to their final rest. But yesterday the fire service put out its finest panoply of honour for the funeral of Station Officer Colin Townsley, aged 45, who died attempting to save passengers in the King's Cross Underground fire.

Rarely, it was said over his flag-draped coffin, would one

The death toll in the King's Cross fire rose to 31 yesterday when a middle-aged man, who had been gravely burned, died in University College Hospital, London.

The hospital would not name him, at his family's request. The man had been in the intensive care unit since the fire and had undergone surgery by consultant plastic surgeon Mr Michael Brough.

He is understood to have been from Central London, married with children.

Fireman boast of his own or another's heroism to an outsider. Yesterday was an exception; some 3,000 firemen, representing every brigade in Britain, set aside their pride to give one of their number the fireman's equivalent of a state funeral.

His bier was a turntable ladder, dressed overall in dozens of wreaths of white, red and yellow, dominated by the word "Guv" picked out in white chrysanthemums, a last tribute from the men of Red Watch at Soho fire station whom he commanded, and who were a bare two hours into their shift when summoned to that fateful incident in which 30 others lost their lives in the fire, smoke and confusion of King's Cross.

His coffin lay on the vehicle's platform beneath the ladder, draped with the Union flag, his white helmet and fire service good conduct medal on a black cushion among the wreaths on top, and attended by six pallbearers from Red Watch, bareheaded and at stiff attention.

Before the ladder in convoy drove two black hearse full of wreaths sent from all over the world, and two flower-decked fire engines, one of them the vehicle that took Colin Townsley from Soho station to his last call, his seat in the cab left poignantly empty.

Preceded by a police motorcycle escort, the bright cortege left Soho fire station and made steady progress through the London traffic to King's Cross

# Security sweep follows massacre of 16 whites

From Jan Raath, Harare, and A Correspondent, Esogodini

The Government of Zimbabwe yesterday sent a counter-insurgency task force into farming areas south of the city of Bulawayo to help in the hunt for guerrillas responsible for the massacre on Thursday of 16 white members of a Christian community.

It was the worst attack on whites in the country since the war of independence.

Mr Enos Nkala, the Minister of Home Affairs, yesterday told a press conference in Harare that the massacre was the result of a dispute between the group of Pentecostals, who included two Americans, and squatters who had settled in the area.

The only eye-witness reports came from two traumatized children, Laura Russell, aged 13, Matthew Marais, aged 6 and a black houseworker from the Olive Tree and New Adams Farms in the Esogodini area, 18 miles south of the city, where the group farmed together as the Reconciliation Community.

Although journalists were being kept back from the scene of the killings at Olive Tree farm, from the top of a nearby kopje (hill) the stone walls of the homestead could be seen covered with ash. Two other buildings, including a community centre, were similarly destroyed.

Laura Russell appeared to owe her survival to the guerrillas' intention to use her to carry a note, in broken English, to the authorities, describing themselves as "Marxist-Leninist fighters" and castigating Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, and Mrs Thatcher, for acting contrary to "the people's revolution".

Mr Nkala, quoting the worker who escaped, says that despite being armed with rifles, the guerrillas used "only axes" and backed the missionaries to death, first at Olive Tree, and then at New Adams.

The squatters refused again, Continued on page 24, col 5

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## Books for Christmas

Significant, surprising, funny, cruel, brilliant, urbane, uplifting, entertaining, revelatory, laudatory, historical, hysterical, meaningful, frivolous... a panel of critics chooses books of the year, plus the best on offer in categories from children to travel

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IN PART 2

## Tokyo victory

Cable and Wireless will win its battle to enter the Japanese market on Monday when it is awarded a telecommunications licence ..... Page 25

## Go for bonds

Bonds seem to be the safest place for your money after the stock market collapse says Family Money... Pages 36-36

## Portfolio

There is £20,000 to be won in The Times Portfolio Gold competition today, the £3,000 weekly prize and a daily prize of £12,000 because there were no winners on the previous two days.

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# British sub 'spied on IRA arms boat'

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

A British nuclear submarine is reported to have been shadowing the coaster Eksund up to the moment that French customs boarded her on October 30 and discovered a huge cache of arms allegedly destined for the Provisional IRA.

In a special investigation published yesterday, the well-informed daily Liberation claimed that the vessel and her five Irish crew members had been under constant surveillance since loading some 150 tonnes of assorted weaponry supplied by Libya.

The submarine never surfaced during the operation, the report added, relying on its "active-passive" sonar system to keep tabs on the elderly, Panamanian-registered ship. Though the newspaper quotes only "Irish naval service" sources for its story, it says a British hunter-killer submarine was used to shadow



Mr Duncan Campbell: His files were raided by police.

# Rail fares to rise by average 6.5pc

By David Sapsted

Railway users' and transport groups yesterday attacked British Rail's plans to increase fares by an average of 6.5 per cent in January.

They said that commuters in the South-east and business travellers would again be hardest hit by the rises.

A spokesman for British Rail said the increases, running two per cent ahead of inflation, were necessary to finance improvements in services.

The Central Transport Consultative Committee blamed reductions in state subsidy.

# MP tells cricketers to return

The controversial dismissal of Chris Broad, the England batsman has brought a protest from the Conservative MP Mr Terence Dicks, the member for Hayes and Harlington. Mr Dicks has called for England to come home immediately because of "cheating" by Pakistan. "What they have been doing is unsporting and a disgrace," Mr Dicks said.

Broad has been reprimanded by the England tour manager, Peter Lush, for his reluctance to accept that he had been caught after appearing to make no contact with a delivery. Report, page 46

# How Scargill keeps audiences under his thumb



By John Clare  
Education Correspondent

A lecturer in psychology at York University has found out how Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, controls his audience to create the impression that he is overwhelmingly popular.

Dr Peter Bull has carried out a detailed psychological analysis of Mr Scargill's style.

Dr Bull said yesterday that after studying a videotape of Mr Scargill making a speech at a Labour Party rally in Bradford, he had identified three rhetorical devices which the miners' leader uses to arouse and control applause.

The first, which Dr Bull says is highly effective in evoking sustained clapping, is the use of contrast accompanied by ambidextrous gesturing. Thus: "There is something criminally insane about a government which puts war (right hand jab) before peace (left hand jab)."

Dr Bull says Mr Scargill used the device 10 times during his Bradford speech. On eight occasions it was followed by sustained applause.

The second device is the use of three-part lists in which each item is marked out by carefully synchronised gestures. Dr Bull says the device

is also a favourite of Mrs Thatcher's, as in: "Soviet marxism is ideologically, politically and morally bankrupt."

Mr Scargill used nine three-part lists in his Bradford speech: six were greeted with sustained applause.

Dr Bull calls the third of Mr Scargill's rhetorical devices the headline-punchline. "In this device, the speaker proposes to make a declaration, pledge or announcement and then makes it: thus, it is totally explicit that there is an appropriate place for the audience to applaud."

Mr Scargill employed this



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NEWS SUMMARY

# Unions balloted in TV dispute

Unions at Tyne Tees television, where 39 electricians have been dismissed over a flexible rostering dispute, are being balloted on whether to co-operate with management in putting out improved services next week.

Since the dispute began, the Newcastle upon Tyne-based company has been broadcasting some of its programmes from inadequately lit studios. Management has decided, from Monday, to do the work normally undertaken by electricians.

The company has refused to reinstate the dismissed electricians until the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians (ACTT) agrees to new working practices.

The dispute at TV-am in London, also over working practices, remained deadlocked. ACTT members have been locked out.

## 'Rape of one in 12' Rise in L drivers

More women and retired people are learning to drive. One in every two women now have a driving licence, a quarter more than seven years ago.

Since 1979 the proportion of retired people with licences has risen from 30 per cent to 40 per cent. Women hold 2.5 million provisional driving licences compared with 1.7 million for men.

About 44 per cent of women under 21 pass their test first time while only 22 per cent of learner drivers over 50 do so. Among young men, about 53 per cent pass first time.

## MPs back BA bid

Twenty-five MPs lined up behind British Airways last night in its take-over bid for British Caledonian. They signed an early-day motion arguing that it would be regrettable if the airline were taken over by a foreign company "noted for its commitment to a protectionist high fare policy" (Harvey Elliott writes).

The MPs' action came as a disappointment to British Caledonian which believes that the rival Scandinavian offer should at least be given a fair hearing. Many employees and shareholders privately believe that the SAS deal, once it is clarified, could provide a more attractive alternative to the British Airways take-over offer, in that it would enable B-Cal to retain its domestic routes.

## Scientific appraisal Two years for lawyer

Britain's science community is too big and ought to "stop belly-aching", Sir Hermann Bondi, Master of Churchill College, Cambridge, said yesterday.

Scientific research was costing the population more than £15 per head per year, yet the taxpayer was being told that this led only to "disaster, a total loss of morale, an inability to do much work and a loss to the country of many of the most talented scientists".

Sir Hermann said that the task was to improve the way funds were used.

## Pit campaign starts

The battle for the leadership of the National Union of Mineworkers begins in earnest next week when Mr John Walsh, the union's North Yorkshire agent, will outline the disagreements which have led him to challenge Mr Arthur Scargill for the post of president (Tim Jones writes).

The former Rugby League international, who begins his campaign at Castleford, North Yorkshire, has until January 22 to convince the union's 100,000 members that he should be their new leader. Mr Walsh believes Mr Scargill's style is based far too much on confrontation rather than consultation. Mr Scargill plans to begin his campaign at the only remaining pit in North Wales whose miners criticized him during the strike.

# Gorbachov visit 'sign of respect for Thatcher'

By Martin Fletcher  
Political Reporter

The first visit to Britain by a Russian leader in 31 years will be confined to RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire, government sources said yesterday.

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov will land there on Monday week on his way to the Washington summit to sign the treaty to eliminate intermediate nuclear weapons (INF) from Europe.

Mr Gorbachov and Mr

Edward Shevardnadze, his Foreign Minister, will have talks with the Prime Minister and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, at the RAF base.

There had been speculation that the Russian leader would go to Chequers, the Prime Minister's country residence in Buckinghamshire, but that has been ruled out through lack of time.

The two leaders will discuss possibilities for further disarmament in the wake of the

INF treaty, and, if time permits, the progress of Mr Gorbachov's reforms in the Soviet Union, East-West relations and the situation in the Gulf.

Appropriately, RAF Brize Norton is near to RAF Greenham Common, home of the cruise missiles that the INF deal will eliminate.

A group of Soviet officials arrived there yesterday to make advance preparations for the visit. Their duties included checking that British

arrangements for his protection.

Meanwhile, in Moscow, a Soviet spokesman yesterday confirmed that Mr Gorbachov's decision to stop in Britain was a sign of his respect for Mrs Thatcher.

Mr Gennadi Gerasimov, chief spokesman of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, said Mr Gorbachov valued the Prime Minister's opinions and wanted to exchange views.

"Mrs Thatcher is a leader of strong views. Mr Gorbachov

is a leader of strong views. It will strengthen the position of both sides", Mr Gerasimov told BBC Radio.

"This shows that the relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, important as they are, are not the end of the story. We value our relations with other countries."

The Labour Party moved a step closer to retaining the Trident nuclear deterrent pending the outcome of arms talks last night by arguing that

unilateralism was no longer necessary now the superpowers had embraced nuclear disarmament (Nicholas Wood writes).

The remarks by Mr Gerald Kaufman, Labour spokesman on foreign affairs, made with the full backing of the party leadership, were immediately seen as giving renewed impetus to the process, begun at the Brighton conference in October, of putting the Opposition back on a multilateral footing.

# GMC takes tough line on doctors with Aids

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Doctors risk being struck off the medical register if they contract the Aids virus but ignore advice to stop practising, the General Medical Council said yesterday.

The council announced new guidelines for all doctors after a meeting of its standards committee.

Sir John Walton, the council's president, said that it was unethical for doctors who knew or suspected that they had Aids or were HIV positive to continue working without advice.

Sir John, in a statement issued after the meeting, said that doctors would be putting their patients at risk if they

consider they may have been infected with HIV should seek appropriate diagnostic testing and counselling and, if found to be infected, should have regular medical supervision.

"They should also seek specialist advice on the extent to which they should limit their professional practice in order to protect their patients."

"It is unethical for doctors who know or believe themselves to be infected with HIV to put patients at risk by failing to seek appropriate counselling, or to act upon it when given."

Sir John added: "If the circumstances so warrant, the council is empowered to take action to limit the practice of such doctors."

The British Medical Association yesterday backed the council's decision.

The Department of Health and Social Security said that it welcomed the speed with which the General Medical Council had acted.

A judge's remarks about the fear of Aids just before he ruled a rapist for 12 years were unjustified, the Court of Appeal ruled in London yesterday.

Lord Justice Gidwell said yesterday that the time might come when guidelines on sentencing in rape cases would have to be revised to reflect the transmission of the disease.

However, in the case before the Common Serjeant, Judge Thomas Pigot, QC, at the Central Criminal Court, there was no evidence that the teenage victim of a knife-point rape had contracted Aids.

Lord Justice Gidwell, sitting with Mr Justice Kenneth Jones and Mr Justice Rous, reduced the 12-year sentence on Leslie Malcolm to 10 years.

The appeal judge said that the Common Serjeant had commented on the "pernicious" nature of the disease and he might well have increased his sentence as a result.

Malcolm, aged 22, of Barrington Road, Stockwell, south-west London, admitted rape when he appeared at the Central Criminal Court on February 16 this year.

# Patients to get free private treatment

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Britain's largest private health insurance company, Bupa, has set up a £500,000 scheme with the Government to reduce National Health Service waiting lists by sending patients to private hospitals.

The pilot scheme is intended to help some of the 700,000 people waiting for treatment and to promote private health care.

The exercise will also study the cost effectiveness of using the 200 private hospitals in this country.

Hospitals involved in the project, which is being set up in Trent and West Midlands regional health authorities, can use the extra money to pay only for operations in the private sector and, in a few cases, in NHS pay beds.

The new funding is expected to allow 1,000 patients to have their operations in the next four months.

The Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday that the two regions, which will each be given £240,000, had been chosen because they have long waiting lists and because they have already set up several successful schemes.

Trent has 59,800 people awaiting treatment. Sir Michael Carlisle, the regional chairman, yesterday welcomed the scheme. "We want to ensure that the maximum number of patients get treated and this is one way of achieving that. This is money that we would not have got otherwise and anything to help alleviate pain is a good thing."

Nearly 80,000 people are waiting for treatment in West Midlands. The authority said that officers were discussing with Bupa where the money could be spent most effectively.

Bupa said yesterday that none of its own hospitals was sited in either region. "We are being paid a small consultancy fee to advise the two regions how to strike a tough bargain with the private hospitals", it said.

"The NHS has no idea about its own costs let alone those in the private sector."

The company, which is being paid "a few thousand pounds" for the consultancy service, says that neither Bupa nor the private hospitals would make money out of the deal. White Paper in action, page 4

# Psycopath's one-man war

By David Sapsted



Dessie O'Hare: interested "only in the bullet and the bomb".

# Haughey's threat on extradition Bill

By John Cooney

Opposition leaders in the Irish Parliament yesterday objected to proposed safeguards in an extradition Bill despite a threat from Mr Charles Haughey, the Prime Minister, that he will call a general election if the measure is not approved next week.

The Bill would require the Irish attorney general to satisfy himself that the intention is to prosecute a fugitive and that there is sufficient evidence supplied by the British legal authorities for a prosecution to take place.

Presenting the Bill, Mr Haughey said that it struck the right balance. "It gives effective protection without being excessively restrictive."

Mr Desmond O'Malley, a former justice minister, said that Mr Haughey was attempting

politically to browbeat Parliament into supporting "this unjustified and arbitrary departure from the rule of law".

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, has been urged by Irish socialists to end his party's contacts with Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA.

The appeal is made in a letter from Mr Dick Spring, the Irish Labour leader and former deputy prime minister. Mr Thomas McGiolla, the leader of the Workers Party, and Mr Jim Kemmy, an independent deputy.

A permanent memorial, in the form of a garden of remembrance, seems certain to be erected for the victims of the Poppy Day bombing in Enniskillen.

When his group was expelled from the INLA, he issued a statement criticizing the headquarters faction for failing "to perpetrate the war against the enemies of the Irish people, North and South".

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## Civil Service YTS strike may spread

By Roland Rodd and Kerry Gill

Striking Civil Servants yesterday closed Department of Employment offices throughout the country as union leaders argued over escalating the dispute.

The DHSS said eight local offices were closed to the public, while Civil Servants working at other offices refused to cross picket lines.

Mr John Ellis, general secretary of the CPSA, warned the hard left in his union it would be in breach of the law if it tried to force Civil Servants in the DHSS to join yesterday's strike without a ballot.

However, Mr Macreadie said he regarded the vote in favour of the strike as a preliminary move towards further industrial action.

He said he expected all Civil Servants to respect the picket lines and join the strike.

## Karpov takes time out for second time

By Raymond Keene

Anatoly Karpov, the challenger, has taken his second time-out in the world chess championship in Seville, Spain, thus postponing the eighteenth game until Monday.

Karpov and Gary Kasparov have eight-and-a-half points each. Kasparov holds White in four of the remaining seven games, and needs 12 points to retain the world title.

Opinion in Seville inclines to the view that Karpov needed a pause after the two sharp games played earlier this week.

## Gene test rapist cuts his throat

By Ruth Gledhill

A rapist who claimed innocence slashed his throat with a razor blade after he was convicted on the basis of a genetic "fingerprint".

Nigel Davies, aged 25, a labourer, of Rhymney Drive, Rhyll, North Wales, cut himself in the dock after being found guilty at Mold Crown Court yesterday of raping a woman aged 60 in Rhyll. He was taken bleeding to the cells where a doctor found his wounds to be superficial.

Mr Justice Jupp called the rapist a danger to the public, ordered him to be detained in a secure hospital and adjourned sentence pending psychiatric reports.

Davies is the first man in Britain to have been found guilty after evidence based on the genetic fingerprinting.

## Ladbroke's sues Tote for libel

By Richard Evans

The Horserace Totalisator Board, whose members include a member of the Royal Family, was yesterday served with a writ claiming damages for libel by Ladbroke's, the biggest of the high street betting chains.

Prince Michael of Kent is on the board, whose other members include Lord Chapple, the Mr David Mountagu, Mrs Priscilla Hastings, Mr John Sanderson and Mr Peter S. Winfield.

The writ concerns a letter written on October 13 by Lord Wyatt, chairman of the Tote and one of the best known figures in British racing, to an official of the Pari Mutuel Urbain, the French equivalent of the Tote.

Ladbroke's, which obtained a copy of the letter earlier this week, has also issued a writ against Lord Wyatt.

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## AUCTION SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER AT 3.00 PM

VIEWING FROM 2PM

PACKING LIST DESCRIBES ORIGINS AS ISFAHAN, QUOM MALLAYER, SENNER SIRJAN, MESHAD BEROUCH, HAMADAN, TABRIZ, MAHAL, KASHGAL, AFSHAR, SHIRAZ NAIN KASHAN, MOUD, SAROUK KEREKHAN, AND 19TH CENTURY PIECES IN SILK AND WOOL ETC.

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## Rossetti se

By...

Rail force to swi

No slowing



# Rail fare rises 'will force commuters to switch to roads'

By David Sapsted

Commuters and business travellers were warned yesterday that they will be hit hardest by British Rail's plans to increase fares next year by an average of 6.5 per cent, well ahead of the rate of inflation.

Transport and rail users' groups claimed that the reduction in state subsidy to British Rail would bring rises of up to 13 per cent, with InterCity and Network SouthEast travellers worst affected, as part of a deliberate policy of trying to force commuters off the most over-crowded routes.

"We are very concerned that commuters and people travelling on business are going to be clobbered", said Major-General Lennox Napier, chairman of the rail users' watchdog group, the Central Transport Consultative Committee (CTCC).

The public transport pressure group, Transport 2000, said: "Neither Network SouthEast nor London Transport can cope with the recent increases in passengers. Each is now trying to price off users and the result can only be to force people on to the roads."

"It might make good political headlines to reduce the subsidy to railways, but it

makes absolutely no sense in transport policy terms."

The increases announced by BR yesterday average less than the 9.5 per cent rise proposed by London Regional Transport, but are still 2 per cent above inflation. They include 13.46 per cent increase on the London-Liverpool ordinary single fare. InterCity Saver fares are unchanged but most seven-day seasons on InterCity will rise by 8 to 11 per cent.

Both the CTCC and Transport 2000 said yesterday that British Rail had little option but to increase fares after progressive reductions in government subsidy.

That was reduced by 25 per cent between 1983-86, and is for a similar cut in the next three years. InterCity services will lose all their subsidy by next April when, the CTCC says, they will still be millions of pounds in the red and have little hope of meeting the Government's aim of breaking even.

Major-General Napier also accused British Rail of deliberately increasing fares on the new and overcrowded Sprinter units to dampen demand. Provincial services,

booming because of unreliability caused by bus deregulation, would also lose out because of the big fare rises, Transport 2000 says.

Mr Robert Hughes, Labour's chief transport spokesman, condemned the fare rises, saying they were above the rate of inflation for the fifth year running.

"By forcing British Rail to use fares, instead of grants, to finance investment the Government is distorting the transport market, pushing still more commuters on to our roads and forcing up spending on road repairs. This is crazy economics, like cutting off your hand to lose weight."

Justifying the rises, British Rail said that part of the extra revenue raised from its real money-spinner, Network SouthEast, would be spent next year on lengthening suburban stations serving Charing Cross and Cannon Street to enable them to take 12-carriage, instead of 10-carriage, trains.

Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, yesterday defended the rise in fares and emphasized that trains were now more popular than ever.

## TRAIN FARE CHANGES

### Network SE standard class between London and:

	Cheap day return			7-day season (BR)			Annual season (BR)		
	£ Now	£ New	% Rise	£ Now	£ New	% Rise	£ Now	£ New	% Rise
Bletchley	6.40	6.70	4.69	31.30	33.40	6.71	1252	1336	6.71
Brighton	7.40	7.80	5.41	32.60	34.80	6.75	1304	1392	6.75
Colchester	7.50	8.00	6.67	33.30	35.50	6.61	1332	1420	6.61
East Croydon	2.20	2.50	13.64	13.60	14.80	8.82	544	592	8.82
Reading	5.30	5.50	3.77	30.30	31.30	3.30	1212	1232	1.65
Slough	3.00	3.50	16.67	22.20	25.50	14.87	824	952	14.87
Southend	5.00	5.30	6.00	28.50	30.50	7.37	1140	1224	7.37
Tonbridge	4.20	4.50	7.14	27.10	29.50	8.86	1084	1188	9.59

### Network SE + LT standard class between Central London and:

	7-day + all-zone Capitalcard			Annual + all-zone Capitalcard		
	£ Now	£ New	% Rise	£ Now	£ New	% Rise
Bletchley	35.30	37.90	7.37	1412	1516	7.37
Brighton	36.90	39.30	6.50	1476	1572	6.50
Colchester	36.90	40.00	6.40	1476	1600	6.40
East Croydon	46.30	48.80	5.39	1852	1948	5.13
Reading	37.50	39.00	3.99	1380	1440	4.35
Slough	24.70	26.70	8.10	988	1068	8.10
Southend	32.70	35.10	7.34	1308	1404	7.34
Tonbridge	31.10	33.40	7.40	1244	1336	7.40

### InterCity standard class from London to:

	Single			7-day season			Annual season		
	£ Now	£ New	% Rise	£ Now	£ New	% Rise	£ Now	£ New	% Rise
Birmingham	18.00	17.50	9.38	68.50	75.00	9.49	2400	2620	9.17
Bournemouth	13.50	14.40	6.67	47.30	50.50	6.77	1992	2020	6.77
Bristol	18.50	17.50	8.02	68.50	72.50	9.02	2680	2900	9.02
Cardiff	19.40	21.00	8.25	74.50	81.00	8.72	2990	3240	8.72
Coventry	12.80	14.00	9.38	60.50	66.50	9.92	2150	2390	9.17
Edinburgh	44.50	46.00	3.37	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glasgow	41.50	43.00	3.61	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leeds	28.50	29.50	7.55	82.50	89.50	8.48	3300	3580	8.48
Liverpool	26.00	29.50	13.46	—	—	—	3420	3760	9.94
Manchester	26.00	28.00	7.69	—	—	—	3540	3820	7.91
Newcastle	37.50	39.50	5.33	114.00	125.00	9.65	4560	5000	9.65
Nottingham	15.00	16.50	10.00	50.00	54.50	9.00	2000	2180	9.00
Nottingham	17.30	19.00	9.83	68.50	75.00	9.49	2460	2680	8.94
Peterborough	11.10	12.00	8.11	45.10	49.60	9.98	1804	1964	9.98
Sheffield	21.50	23.00	6.98	80.00	86.50	8.13	3200	3440	9.44
Swindon	10.60	11.50	8.49	49.20	53.50	8.74	1968	2140	8.74
York	28.50	29.50	7.55	84.00	92.00	9.52	3360	3680	9.52
Gatwick	4.80	5.00	6.70	—	—	—	—	—	—
(cheapday)	5.00	5.30	6.00	—	—	—	—	—	—

\*5-zone Capitalcard †Savers on InterCity remain unchanged

## No slowing Mrs Thatcher

By Nicholas Wood

Political Correspondent

After a week in which the long arm of human frailty had briefly brushed her shoulder, Mrs Margaret Thatcher heads for a weekend at Chequers today with her colleagues reflecting on the futility of even suggesting she might slow down.

At the age of 62 and within a few weeks of becoming the longest serving Prime Minister this century, she still subjects herself to a gruelling 14-hour daily schedule.

But on Tuesday night at a reception at which the Queen was host the superwoman mask slipped a fraction. She complained of feeling dizzy, and left 20 minutes early. The following day she was back to the rudest of good health.

It was, of course, just a slight stumble. Yet there are deeper factors at work.

Yesterday, at Westminster there was speculation about what had so temporarily laid her low. Some looked to her punishing daily schedules, others, closer to her, pointed to the events of the previous few days.

On Thursday, she visited

### A routine 16½-hour day

Prime Minister's day Tuesday, November 24, 1987.

6.00am: Wakes to BBC Radio 4. Listens to news and Today.

7.30am: Prepares cooked breakfast for Mr Denis Thatcher, limits herself to orange juice, black coffee and vitamin C tablet. Leads through newspapers.

8.30am: Studies digest of press cuttings.

9am: Downstairs to her Downing Street office for meetings with staff, advisers and Cabinet colleagues. Mr John Moore taken ill there at about 10.30am.

1pm: Light lunch at desk while studying papers for Commons questions.

2.40pm: Arrives at Commons and goes to her study.

the scene of the appalling King's Cross fire and on Sunday morning she was in Enniskillen, standing at the town's cenotaph for half an hour in a freezing wind and rain to mourn the dead of two world wars and the 11 slain by the IRA a fortnight earlier. Later that day she was holding talks with M Jacques Chirac,

3pm: Arrives on government front bench.

3.15pm: Plunged into 15 minutes of heated questions concentrating on the Birmingham hole-in-the-heart baby and nurses' pay.

3.30pm: Holds a series of meetings with backbench Conservative MPs.

6pm: Arrives at Buckingham Palace for a 90-minute audience with the Queen—slightly shorter than usual.

8.15pm: Back at Downing Street for supper, then changes for the reception.

9.30pm: Arrives at Palace.

10.30pm: Feels unwell. Returns to her Downing Street flat 20 minutes earlier than planned. Has, for her, a very early night.

the French prime minister, on the forthcoming EEC Summit. For Mrs Thatcher, last Tuesday (see panel) was a day much like many others, beginning at 6 am with the BBC Radio 4 and the Today programme and expected to end past midnight with a Scotch and the last of the Red Boxes of ministerial papers.

## Rossetti sets world record

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

Christie's achieved a world record price for a Victorian painting when they sold Dante Gabriel Rossetti's "Proserpine" for £1.43 million (including buyer's premium) in London yesterday, while Sotheby's counteracted with a record for a manuscript by the composer Liszt.

The Rossetti painting is significant, first as the original version of the famous painting at the Tate Gallery and, second, for having belonged to the artist's brother, who hung it in the bedroom of his Manchester house.

It was bought by the dealer Christopher Gibbs for a client, breaking the previous record for a Victorian painting—US\$1.265 million (£983,000) for a work by F S Lewis. However, two of Christie's trio of star turns did not fare so well.

Lord Leighton's "Sybil", described as magnificent by the auction house and "lost in the men's room in a house in Connecticut" until its recent discovery. It sold below its estimate of £300,000 to £500,000, at £286,000, while "The Prince Entering the

Saleroom

Brian Wood" by Edward Burne-Jones failed to sell.

During the week, the Leighton had been the subject of scorn by dealers who, despite Christie's protestations, insisted the painting had been cleaned recently, at the cost of its subtle paint glazes.

The Burne-Jones, estimated at £500,000 to £800,000, was bought in at £520,000.

Among the predictable Victorian narrative subjects,

the strangest was Frank Cadogan Cowper's picture of the Devil disguised as a troubadour entertaining nuns with his song of love. It was bought for £75,000 by a collector buying in partnership with the dealer Peter Nahum.

In total, the sale raised £3.1 million, with 29 per cent bought in.

At Sotheby's, a recently discovered autograph manuscript of an unknown piano work by Franz Liszt sold for £71,500 (estimate £40,000 to £60,000) to an anonymous private buyer.

At the manuscript sale, there were good prices for material related to early music, currently enjoying a vogue in musical circles. An autograph manuscript of Purcell's transcription of "Miserere mei, Domine" fetched £17,600.

## Art expert who fits a royal bill



The power of advertising has helped to find a successor to Sir Oliver Millar who retires next July after 16 years as Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures (Lynda Mardia writes).

Mr Christopher Lloyd, aged 42, assistant keeper of Western Art at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, where he was pictured yesterday, responded to an unprecedented "sit vac" in the Burlington Magazine.

Mr Lloyd, who has four children aged seven to 17, has spent 20 years at the Ash-

molean, becoming interested in art as a modern history undergraduate at Christ Church, Oxford. Two particular areas of interest are Italian Renaissance art and French Impressionism.

As Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, he will be responsible for the maintenance of the largest private art collection in the world, about 5,000 pictures ranging from priceless masterpieces to works of less distinguished quality.

(Photograph: David Hartley)

## Christmas bears out toy monsters

By India Knight

With 23 shopping days to go before Christmas, London's main toy stockists report a surprising return to traditional gifts, cuddly bears, board games and model aircraft.

Gone are the talking toys, plastic monsters and video games favoured in recent years.

The bestseller at Harrods toy department is the store's

Christmas bear, an 18in figure complete with bobble hat and wintry scarf at £14.95. Close second is a set of magic cards, retailing at £1.99. Third is a set of paper airplanes at £1.50. The planes loop the loop when thrown in the air.

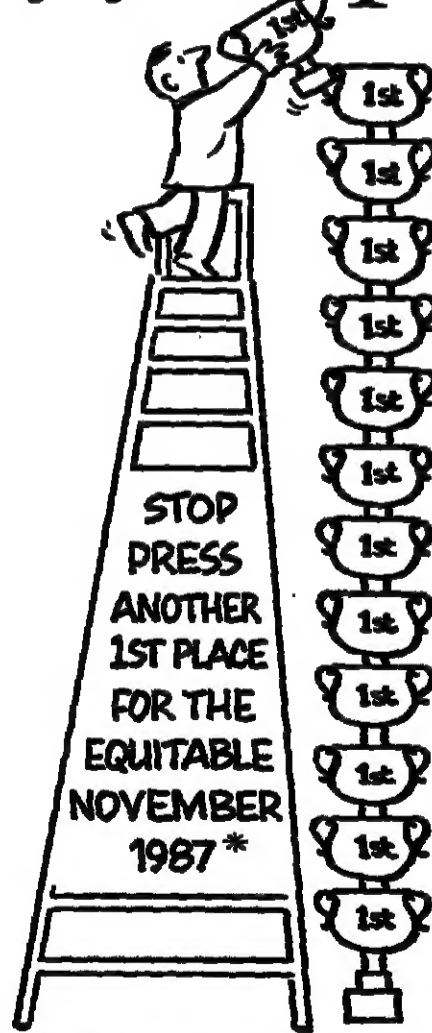
At Hamleys, the best sellers are remote-controlled cars which range in price from £29.99 to £59.99. A "talking computer" aimed at five to

nine-year-olds, which promises "19 IQ-building activities", is also selling well at £45.99.

Cassette recorders, skateboards and board games are in demand.

At Woolworth's, where sales of plastic animal hybrid figures are holding up, "Soft Keytops", hairy toys with a hole in their middle for storing treasures, are selling well.

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\*20 year regular contribution with profits policy - Planned Savings Survey November 1987.



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# Hard left campaign threatens Labour's overhaul of policy

By Roland Rudd

A campaign by the hard left to seize control of Britain's largest trade union threatens Mr Neil Kinnock's plans to overhaul Labour Party policy.

For the past two years the moderate members of the Transport and General Workers Union have clung to power, holding 21 of the national executive's 38 places. They have thrown the deeply divided union behind Mr Kinnock's policies, including the one-member-one-vote policy for the re-election of Labour candidates.

Without that support the Labour Party leader would find it almost impossible to bring in the policies he wants to finalize by summer 1989.

There is open hostility from the union's hard left. It wants to swing the union against the Kinnock proposals at the TGWU's biennial conference, also in summer 1989.

In the past month the hard left has:   
● Warned Mr Ron Todd, the union's general secretary, that it will not accept the appointment of Mr Ken Reid, a leading Kinnock supporter, as secretary of region one, representing 350,000 South-east union members;   
● Undermined Mr Reid's position. He has to work in a small office without a telephone. In confidential minutes of region one's recent committee meeting - disclosed to *The Times* yesterday - a hard left member makes it clear that the group "had no intention whatsoever of giving Brother Reid any credence or co-operation";   
● Told Mr Todd that it is "unable to be associated with the outrageously prejudiced decision of the union's NEC (to withdraw its support from the Stalinist *Morning Star*) and will continue to give full support to the publication".

The ruling moderate group is convinced the moves are part of a co-ordinated campaign to unseat Mr Brian Nicholson, the chairman of the union, in January elections.

A leading moderate told *The Times*: "It is a scandal that the hard left is prepared to paralyse the largest union during the Ford strike at Dagenham to further its own aims".

Mr Nicholson, a docker

who has been involved in union politics for more than thirty years, abandoned the hard left for the pro-Kinnock group, giving it a tiny majority.

He is standing for re-election to the executive from region one with another moderate, Mr John Davis, against two hard left candidates, Mr Peter Hagger and Mr Steve Riley, a convenor at a Ford assembly plant.

The hard left is expected to picket the union's executive meeting on Monday when it will put its demand to have Mr Reid dismissed as secretary of region one.

Mr Todd has made it clear that executive appointments must be accepted, although his decision to allow the hard left a say on Monday has dismayed moderates.

A full-time union official said: "Neil Kinnock is banking on the soft left keeping control of the union to help him push through the far-reaching changes in Labour Party policy. Ron Todd has got to realize that if the hard left get their way it will be a terrible blow to the Labour leadership."

Mr Cripps, aged 43, who works from his cottage studio in Greywell near Basingstoke, Hampshire, now paints

# A triumph of art over disease



Mr John Cripps, a former telephone engineer whose hands were once totally crippled by the same disease which afflicted Mrs Margaret Thatcher's little finger last year, working on a painting of a falcon.

Mr Cripps, aged 43, who works from his cottage studio in Greywell near Basingstoke, Hampshire, now paints

detailed pictures of birds of prey for customers around the world (David Cross writes). He said last night that his affliction, known as Dupuytren's Contracture, had once been so bad that he had once thought he could not even draw a straight line without a ruler.

"Of course, when the Prime Minister went into hospital for her operation the

condition was not as advanced as mine. The swelling of my tendons cost me my career. I still have a certain amount of pain and stiffness in my hands but I manage to cope pretty well."

When he left hospital after surgery on his hands it was suggested that he should take up either embroidery or painting. (Photograph: Julian Herbert)

# Two jailed after gun shots near Prince

Two brothers fired five shots in an attempt to escape but were overpowered by an "extraordinarily courageous" posse of men as Prince Edward watched the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

The Prince was lunching in a restaurant when bullets started to fly and "all hell broke loose" in Old Brompton Road, South Kensington, London, Mr John Bevan, for the prosecution, said.

Peter Colson, aged 45, of Tottenham, north London, who was fired on parole in June 1986 after serving 11 years for his part in a £6 million robbery at the Bank of America, was sentenced to 16 years. Anthony Colson, aged 41, of Leyton, east London, was jailed for 14 years.

They admitted an attempted £2,400 robbery on April 1, causing grievous bodily harm to Mr Thomas Bick, aged 52, a security guard, possessing a loaded pistol and revolver and using them to resist arrest.

# Sex charges

A man aged 39 and his former wife aged 45 made their second appearance before magistrates at Sandbach, Cheshire, yesterday on child sex charges. They were remanded in custody until next Thursday.

# MP divorced

Mrs Helyn Mudd, aged 51, wife of Mr David Mudd, Conservative MP for Falmouth and Camborne, was granted a decree nisi at Truro, Cornwall, yesterday, on the ground of his admitted adultery with another woman.

# Baby's funeral

The still-born baby of Mr and Mrs Philip Rayner, which was at the centre of a controversy over plans to take it into care at birth, was buried yesterday at Ashton-under-Lyne, Greater Manchester.

# Golden scrap

The replica of Drake's flagship, the *Golden Hind*, which sank off Dartmouth nearly three weeks ago, is beyond repair and will be scrapped.

# Cereal popularity helps milk board

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

A huge increase in the popularity of breakfast cereals, has come to the aid of the Milk Marketing Board. Figures published yesterday show that, although consumption of milk as a drink has fallen by nearly a third since 1970, much more is poured on flakes, bran and muesli than 15 years ago.

Liquid milk sales have a retail value of more than £2,600 million a year but the board is still facing a steady erosion of its market, mainly because milk has lost some of its healthy image.

However, yesterday, the board claimed to have achieved a breakthrough in persuading South Glamorgan education authority to include milk promotion as part of a health education campaign.

The board hopes that will persuade other authorities to emphasize the value of milk as part of a child's diet.

● The New Zealand Dairy Board yesterday rejected suggestions that some of the butter sold under its Anchor label did not originate from New Zealand.

It said that because of the reduction in its quota agreement with the EEC - down from 76,500 tonnes this year to 74,500 next year - the viability of the Anchor Foods plant at Swindon, Wiltshire, depended on diversification.

All standard salted butter originated in New Zealand, but it had begun marketing speciality foods such as low-fat cheeses made from milk produced in the EEC.

# Rural GPs with computers offer model service

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A country general practice in Hampshire has been held up by the Government as a model for the reforms outlined in its White Paper on GP services.

It has taken two GPs nine years to transform a traditional rural practice set on the banks of a river in the village of Overton, into an efficient, computerized surgery.

The practice, which covers 4,900 residents, is already implementing many of the ideas proposed in the White Paper, such as screening young children, carrying out free medical checks and setting up efficient call and recall systems for cervical cancer screening.

Dr Robert Lorge, aged 40,

In every way but one, Dr Lionel Stoll fits the White Paper's prescription for the perfect general practitioner. He has devoted his life to helping others. He admits his work comes first and his family second. He is a member of many committees and still studies medicine at London University (Ruth Gledhill writes).

The one thing that counts against him is his age. Dr Stoll, a Fellow of the British Medical Association, could face compulsory retirement if proposed legislation in the Government's White Paper *Promoting Better Health* becomes law. He is reluctant to disclose his exact age but admits to being in his mid-seventies.

Dr Richard Coppin, aged 37, also carry out minor surgery, such as the removal of moles and warts and stitching up "the walking wounded".

Their prescriptions are printed out clearly as part of a computerized system which also handles the call and recall cervical smear system, records all children who are im-

The White Paper proposes legislation to compel all GPs to retire at 70. "This is utter nonsense", Dr Stoll, who runs a thriving practice with two partners in Primrose Hill, north London, said.

"I am sure I am speaking for all the older doctors. I know a lot of younger doctors who have not made as much of an effort to keep up as some of the older ones. The younger ones often think they know all the answers." A committee he serves on deals with complaints against doctors. "We have never had a complaint about a doctor being too old".

munized and has a register of elderly people.

"This means that we can call children for regular health checks at six weeks, six months and one year and we can check on the frail elderly in winter", Dr Coppin said.

The doctors can boast impressively high immunization and vaccination rates

than the 68 per cent national average.

Women between the ages of 18 and 60 are called for cervical smears every three years. "Over 86 per cent of the women in the village have now had a smear test. Our GP trainee went to visit all those who refused and many of these were then persuaded to attend", Dr Coppin said.

The one-storey red brick surgery is like a two-man cottage hospital. Every one of the patients is offered free full medical checks every three years, which would cost about £200 in the private sector.

The White Paper proposals will give doctors a financial incentive to provide many of the services offered in Overton.

GPs will get an allowance if they achieve specified screening targets.

November 27 1987

# FT sale would involve inquiry

## PRESS FREEDOM

While the *Financial Times* remained profitable and continued to enjoy a paid-for circulation above 25,000 - the criteria set by the Fair Trading Act, 1973 - both of which were likely, any proposal to acquire the paper by News International, or by any other proprietor with substantial interests, would automatically have to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for inquiry, Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State, Home Office, said, during a debate on freedom of the press.

He said that everyone wanted to see a free press, but one that was not excessively intrusive. Everyone also wanted it to be interesting and without misrepresentation or misreporting. Such perfection was not likely.

The Government was committed to safeguarding the freedom of the press, but that did not mean that freedom had to be unlimited. No one would argue that the press had a right to defame or to publish obscene material.

The Today sale had saved 500 jobs while only increasing News International's share of popular titles by 2.5 per cent.

The idea of a media enterprise board to launch new publications was interesting, but how would that result in diversification? Would the result be to produce *Labour Weekly* at taxpayers' expense?

Mr Clive Soley (Hammersmith, Lab), opening the debate, said that a free press was essential in a vibrant and open democracy. That freedom was in danger of being lost.

Politicians had to be careful when speaking on the subject because they had an ambivalent relationship with the press, at one stage seeking its favour and at another condemning it.

The concentration of the press into a number of large groups, including News International, the Mirror Group and United Newspapers, gave cause for concern not just to politicians and the public, but to many people in the newspaper world.

Since 1965, the idea that newspaper mergers should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission had been discredited. The latest example of the Government's determination to back concentration of the press had been the purchase of *Today* by Mr Rupert Murdoch, which the Government had refused to refer to the commission. It seemed that he might as well have a free pass to take over any newspaper he wished.

There was a temptation in the newspaper world to emphasize sex, violence and Royal Family-type stories that boosted circulation but did nothing for quality. Most papers now supported

the Conservative Party and that must be unhealthy and undesirable in a democracy.

Libel settlements were rocketing and, although one part of him felt that the papers deserved it, another part of him could see that this would only kill investigative journalism because editors would be too scared by the size of settlements to risk running stories.

The extent of ownership by one individual or organization must be limited, measured either by the total number of newspapers owned or by the percentage of total circulation.

Something must be done about the right of reply. There was a strong case for an ombudsman approach.

Mr Murdoch was a remarkable manager as well as a remarkable acquirer. It was more than anyone, who had broken the stranglehold of the print unions, but some of his publications were a disgrace to the name of journalism. In other publications, he had improved standards, for example in *The Sunday Times Business News* and in *The Australian*.

It had to be said that he had spent money wisely in improving the financial pages of papers by hiring good editors and journalists.

Mr Murdoch already owned five titles in Britain and if he got control of the *Financial Times* it would be an unacceptable concentration of economic and editorial power. "I hope the Government shares that view."

The Government had been meanly-mouthed in its attitude to newspaper takeovers in the past and he had not been reassured by answers on Wednesday about the *Financial Times*.

He was worried about the criteria used for referring takeovers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The Government seemed to do it by numbers - circulation figures. The *Today* newspaper had been allowed to be acquired without so much as a murmur, on the grounds that it represented only 2.5 per cent of national newspaper circulation.

The *Financial Times* represented only 2 per cent and if the Government thought that only numbers were important, it might say "Why not let Mr Murdoch have another 2 per cent?" That was something that needed to be warned against.

The *Financial Times* was one of the finest newspapers in the world, with international stature. There was a genuine problem facing ministers. The case against allowing Mr Murdoch to own the *Financial Times* was quite subtle, particularly as it was rumoured that he was prepared to divest himself of *The Times* in order to do so. The case against Mr Murdoch was about nuances of news, not about abuse of power. It was about editorial reputation rather than editorial standards; about titles rather than circulation; above all it was about the perception of Mr Murdoch and his style of management and the prejudices for and against him.

There should not indefinitely take a *laissez-faire* attitude to the tabloid press. They should

care, because people got hurt by tabloid journalism.

Institutions like the monarchy could be rocked and swayed by tabloid journalism. He was not alone in being worried about the casualness, hounding, misrepresentation and innuendo towards the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Mr Norman Bachan (Paisley South, Lab) said that Maxwell, Murdoch and Stevens owned 80 per cent of the popular press. That was an enormous triple monopoly and a terrifying one.

The Government should give notice of its intention that, in relation to the *Financial Times*, enough was enough.

Mr Ronald Leighton (Newham North East, Lab) said that

Mr Murdoch was a remarkable manager as well as a remarkable acquirer. It was more than anyone, who had broken the stranglehold of the print unions, but some of his publications were a disgrace to the name of journalism. In other publications, he had improved standards, for example in *The Sunday Times Business News* and in *The Australian*.

It had to be said that he had spent money wisely in improving the financial pages of papers by hiring good editors and journalists.

Mr Murdoch already owned five titles in Britain and if he got control of the *Financial Times* it would be an unacceptable concentration of economic and editorial power. "I hope the Government shares that view."

The Government had been meanly-mouthed in its attitude to newspaper takeovers in the past and he had not been reassured by answers on Wednesday about the *Financial Times*.

He was worried about the criteria used for referring takeovers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The Government seemed to do it by numbers - circulation figures. The *Today* newspaper had been allowed to be acquired without so much as a murmur, on the grounds that it represented only 2.5 per cent of national newspaper circulation.

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# Orchestras fear for their cash secrets

By Lynda Murdin, Arts Correspondent

Three of London's four main publicly-funded orchestras fear the rival Philharmonia is about to discover their financial secrets after its appointment yesterday of a new managing director.

Mr David Whelton, aged 33, an Arts Council music officer with responsibility for English orchestras - and therefore privy to all the orchestras' recent three-year funding plans - moves to the Philharmonia in February.

Mr Ian Macley, managing director of the Royal Phil-

harmonia, said: "I can't pretend it is not concerning that the managing director-elect of one of our major competitors has access to our confidential plans."

"He wouldn't be human if he didn't keep certain things in mind but in the end, what can one do about it?"

Mr John Willan, managing director of the London Philharmonia, which earlier this year attempted a City-style take-over of the Philharmonia, said he had kept certain matters secret since hearing of Mr Whelton's possible appointment.

The London Symphony Orchestra's managing director, Mr Clive Giffson, said he did not believe inside knowledge about funding plans would necessarily make Mr Whelton any more successful.

Mr Whelton, who takes over from Mr Christopher Bishop after 18 months with the Arts Council, said last night he had no apologies to make.

"I accept that it does give me an inbuilt advantage in envisaging strategy for the Philharmonia. I don't feel it is unfair or unethical any more than it would be in any other business."

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Spyca press intolerable says e

Police 'pl' bombings

On the 28th of November 1987, the police in London were alerted to a possible bomb threat. The threat was made by a man who identified himself as 'John Smith'. The police immediately began a search for the man, but he was not found. The threat was later found to be a hoax.

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## Spycatcher press ban is 'intolerable' says editor

The court ban on press reporting of Mr Peter Wright's book *Spycatcher* was an "intolerable restraint" on the public's right to know, Mr Donald Treford, editor of *The Observer*, told the High Court yesterday.

"It cannot be that reporting on *Spycatcher* in *The Observer* could cause any further damage; the cat is well and truly out of the bag," he said.

Mr Treford was giving evidence before Mr Justice Scott in reply to the Government's action for a permanent ban on reporting of material from the memoirs of Mr Wright, a former MI5 officer. The book has already sold a million copies worldwide.

In a statement read from the witness box, Mr Treford accused the Government of trying to "bully" newspapers. He said a temporary injunction banning publication obtained by the Government in June 1986 was intolerable since the rest of the world could now read *Spycatcher*.

"It is an important part of the function of the Press in a free society to check on abuses of power," he said.

"I would not exclude the security services from such debate and scrutiny if sufficiently serious abuses came to light, as is the case following publication of Mr Wright's allegations, especially where (as in this case) the suspicion must arise that action is being taken against the press to hush the matter up and save the Government embarrassment."

Mr Treford said that any damage to national security which the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robert Armstrong, had feared before publication of *Spycatcher* must now have occurred.

As a member of the D

Notices Committee, Mr Treford said he was more than usually conscious of the delicate balance between national security interests and a newspaper's right to publish.

It was an article in *The Observer* which alerted the Government to the fact that Mr Wright was planning to publish his memoirs in Australia.

An article in June 1986 which provoked the Government's court action was published in "good conscience" in the belief that it contained matters of public importance which the Government had not prevented. Mr Wright venturing in an earlier television programme.

"I was, and remain astonished at the Government's reaction to what I considered to be a responsible and routine piece of journalism," Mr Treford said.

Freedom of the press was a very important right in any democracy and should only be subject to restraint if required by compelling state interests. That could no longer be the case, now that *Spycatcher* had been published, he said.

Mr Wright had made out a "sufficient case" to merit further public scrutiny about important matters. It was worrying in itself that a man so unsuited to security work should have reached high office in MI5 and operate at its centre for two decades.

Cross-examined by Mr Robert Alexander QC, for the Attorney General, Mr Treford said he was concerned about the use of "prior restraint" on newspaper publication and the increasing practice of the Treasury Solicitor writing to editors seeking undertakings about what their papers would print. That was "alien" to the British system.

## Police 'plot' over bombings denied

Only a film of the planting of the bombs in two Birmingham public houses 13 years ago could have provided police with stronger evidence against six men arrested after the explosions, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Mr Igor Judge, QC, for the Crown, told the court: "If there had been a film this would no doubt have been disposed of as part of a police conspiracy."

On the twentieth day of the appeal by the six men against their 21 murder convictions, Mr Judge said the allegation that police officers had conspired to invent false confessions was "baseless".

He said it would have been "virtually impossible" to find stronger evidence, taken cumulatively, of the guilt of the arrested men, except a "film of the actual planting of the bombs".

The judge and jury at the 1975 trial of the men at Lancaster Crown Court had rejected the suggestion that there had been a carefully considered conspiracy. Nothing in the new evidence raised during the appeal at the Central Criminal Court showed that this conclusion was wrong, he added.

At the start of his submissions, Mr Judge said one of the six, Hugh Callaghan, had actually witnessed the "cruel results" of the bombings at one of the public houses, the Tavern in the Town.

Callaghan denied he had seen anything, Mr Judge said, but other witnesses told the jury how he had arrived home and described seeing glass and bodies flying about.

Mr Judge asked why Callaghan's own god-daughter and her father would lie to the trial. "Are they liars too, along with the police officers, friends, neighbours, and colleagues at work?"

Mr Judge said that during interviews by police, Callaghan sobbed, admitted he was a lieutenant in the IRA and said: "God forgive me. I want some help. I want some help."

The way he was described as acting by police, Mr Judge said, was only attributable to a man who had "seen what he saw", had some human decency left in him, and was keen to confess because of a sense of guilt.

Mr Tom Clarke, a former Birmingham policeman who claimed that the men were beaten up by officers, was a liar whose motives for coming forward were greed and revenge, Mr Judge said.

He was a "convicted liar" who had attempted to sell his story and had turned the offer down as insufficient, Mr Judge said.

Apart from the motive of greed he had also come forward for revenge. He was bitter about his conviction for the theft of £5 which had landed him a three-month jail sentence.

Mr Judge said Mrs Joyce Lyness, a former Birmingham police woman, had given evidence which was worthless.

He referred to her "dramatic" return to the appeal to confess she had earlier lied when she said she had not seen any violence.

She claimed she had kept quiet because of telephone threats. On her second appearance she alleged she had seen one of the men being kned in the groin by police officers.

Mr Judge said: "The Crown does not know what internal or external pressure caused her to fabricate this story. But she did fabricate it, there is no doubt."

The six appellants are William Power, aged 42, of Cranwell Grove, Patrick Hill, aged 42, of Kilburn Road, Kingstanding; John Walker, aged 52, of Enderby Road, Kingstanding; Robert Hunter, aged 41, of Riley Way, Kingstanding; Richard McKenny, aged 53, of Epsom Grove, Kingstanding; all Birmingham; and Hugh Callaghan, aged 57, of Stanwell Grove, Erdington.

The hearing continues on Monday.

## Police chief's lawyers ask for £91,000

Solicitors acting for the former chief constable of Derbyshire, Mr Alf Parrish, yesterday presented Derbyshire County Council with a bill for £91,000.

The bill covers Mr Parrish's legal costs for court hearings and auditors' inquiries after his suspension three years ago after claims that he spent £28,000 on his office without council permission. He was suspended for more than a year before being retired by the Home Secretary.

## Building a future in Meccano



Mr John Linder tinkering with a Meccano digger in the Meccano shop called "Eccentric" that he opened last December after giving up his job as an architect.

Mr Linder, aged 51, of Park Lane, Madeley, Telford, Shropshire, gave away his first collection when he was 15 because he was worried that he was too old to play

with construction toys (India Knight writes).

However, 10 years ago, while convalescing from an operation, he looked to buy another Meccano collection — the biggest set available — and found, to his horror, that it cost more than £250.

As a result, he decided to collect Meccano piece by piece through

answering advertisements placed by fellow enthusiasts and selecting the pieces he needed.

"But things snowballed", according to Mr Linder's wife, Mary, and the Linders opened their shop, named after a Meccano part.

(Photograph: Philip Dunn)

## Ministers set on curbing right of silence

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government is expected to go ahead with proposals to restrict a defendant's right to silence after a secret meeting on Wednesday night between the Law Society, the police and Home Office officials.

No final decision has yet been taken, but in spite of strong opposition from lawyers at the meeting, an amendment is likely to be tabled to the Criminal Justice Bill before it has its second reading in the Commons before Christmas.

The Government had agreed to defer a final decision until the meeting, organized by the Police Foundation with the Law Society, so that there could be a full airing of views.

Yesterday participants at the meeting were not prepared to comment on it. But there is believed to have been no significant shift in views, with the Government still keen to do something to restrict the right to silence, and the Law

Society, Criminal Bar Association and civil libertarians strongly opposed.

The change contemplated by the Government would mean that where a defendant produces a new line of defence at his trial which he failed to mention at the police station, that could be commented on in the trial by the prosecution.

The Home Office describes the proposal as ending the "right to ambush" rather than abolishing the right to silence.

But the Law Society and others argue that it is still tantamount to abolishing the suspect's right to remain silent in the police station.

The change is supported by some senior legal figures, including Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice; Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, and Sir Frederick Lawton, the former Lord Justice of Appeal.

It is certain to arouse stiff opposition in the Commons.

## Gap in the promenade

New cracks began to show last night up to 40 ft from a hole which has appeared on the seafront at Brighton, East Sussex. Engineers believe the sea could be eating its way

under the promenade.

The hole is already bigger than a double decker bus. Last night council officials were planning to close the main seafront road.



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# Killing of whites tied to land dispute in Zimbabwe

## Multiracial sect found donors for farm project

From Our Correspondent, Harare

While the rest of the Zimbabwe up to 1985 was in a building slump, numerous contractors were rescued from bankruptcy by the burgeoning number of new, modernistic churches being erected for charismatic Christian sects.

The swing to Pentecostalism has not left Zimbabwe untouched. The mainstream Catholic, Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian churches, established in most cases before the arrival of white settlers, have expressed concern about their losses to the "born again" movement.

But it is small in numbers, drawn overwhelmingly from the country's white middle-class population of about 90,000.

Many receive funding from groups in the United States, Britain and South Africa. But unlike the conservative, anti-communist and often racist attitudes associated with American fundamentalists, the Zimbabwean Pentecostals tend to be multiracial, politically neutral and devoted to missionary and rural development work.

The Community of Reconciliation, the victims of Thursday's massacre and a group consisting mostly of Anglicans dissatisfied with

formal religion, moved into the Hope Fountain area south of Bulawayo in 1982, shortly after the guerrilla war had spilled into sleepy rural Matabeleland.

The community was regarded with awe for its apparently miraculous ability to find water. It turned successfully to market gardening, and members spent spare time preaching to neighbouring peasant farmers.

A year later, Mr Gary Kroeze, a preacher from Choteau, Montana, arrived and "grew into a position of spiritual ascendancy", said one former community member. He attracted funds from his home and from Kansas City, that city's South Fellowship taking a strong interest.

The money he brought in provided for the purchase of Olive Tree Farm. In his wake followed a regular flow of Kansas City and Choteau people, who would stay for a couple of years, living and working on the farms and bringing skills often lacking in such enterprises.

Mr David Emersson came from Choteau with Miss Karen Iversdahl about four years ago and fell in love with Miss Sarah Lovett. The two were to have been married today.

From Jan Raath, Harare

Last month the Zimbabwe Government faced up to the delicate political problem of land rights and evicted a conservatively-estimated 40,000 black squatters.

The evictions contrasted with previous indifference shown by the Government towards attempts by the country's 4,000 white farmers to secure evictions through court orders.

White farmers own about 40 per cent of Zimbabwe's 156,300 square miles, but the land is widely regarded as the ancestral heritage of the country's 8.5 million blacks.

Only in September did the Government actually square up to the problem, with an announcement by Mr Enos Chikwore, the Minister of Local Government, that "total war" had been declared on squatters. He directed local authorities to take "immediate action" against squatters and to use "police force" if necessary.

As far as can be ascertained, the bulk of the squatter evictions seem to be concentrated in the densely-populated east of the country. The people are sometimes removed with care and consideration, but at other times huts are simply burned down and the former inhabitants told to move on, carrying all their worldly goods.

Press reports detailed the removal of about 12,000 squatters in the less habitable

regions of Matabeleland and it is here — amid the provincial insurgency — that the squatter issue takes on an ominous meaning.

Among the squatters of Matabeleland, guerrillas find fertile ground for insurgency. The province's Ndebele-speaking people overwhelmingly support the opposition Zanu party.

The bitterness of the people against the excesses of Mr Robert Mugabe's largely Shona-based troops in the early stages of the war in the west is still strongly evident.

Guerrillas deliberately cut through miles of fencing to encourage the grazing of peasants' cattle on white farms.

They have left notes behind at squatter areas declaring the land "liberated territory".

Many times the death of a

white farmer has been preceded by a dispute with squatters on his ranch.

"This killing is connected with the squatter problem," said Mr Enos Nkala, the Minister of Home Affairs, at a press conference after Thursday's massacre of 16 missionaries and their families. "There is a co-relationship between squatters and dissidents."

Matabeleland farmers are keenly aware of this relationship.

On follow-up operations against guerrillas after one of the 66 murders of their fellows, they have found the tracks disappearing into the rural slums that mushroomed on the farms abandoned by whites unable to cope with life in the war zone.

There is also black regional resentment against the lesser levels of government development in the western provinces, and Harare's nickname in Bulawayo of "bamba zone" (which means "take everything" in the Chikalapa patois) has more relevance now than ever.

But Western aid agencies will list the millions of dollars of government and donor property that have been destroyed by guerrillas in the past seven years — ranging from gutted schools and murdered medical assistants, to destroyed boreholes and dip-tanks filled with stones — which has done little to encourage development.



Mr Gerald Keightley holding his 18-month-old son, Barnabus. They and the rest of their family were massacred in an attack on their farm near Bulawayo on Thursday.



Mr Enos Nkala: He gave the news of the massacre.

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## Welsh sorrow for massacred family

By Sam Kiley

Eighteen-month-old baby Barnabus was described as looking "just like a little scrum-half" by his father Gerald Keightley in a telephone call to his grandmother a month before the entire Keightley family was murdered at their farm near Bulawayo on Thursday.

The baby's great grandmother, 80-year-old Mrs Lilian Slade, who lives in Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, said: "I feel totally shattered to think the whole family has been wiped out. They were Christian people who never did anyone any harm."

Mrs Slade said she and her husband Fred were just getting ready to send their grandchildren and great grandchildren Christmas cards when Mr Leslie Keightley, Gerald's brother, called them from Zimbabwe to tell them of the killings.

Bandits set fire to the Keightley's thatched farmhouse and the family, Gerald, 40, his wife Marian, 39, and their teenage daughters Glynis, aged 17 and Deborah aged 15 as well as baby Barnabus were shot and hacked down with their guests, Zimbabwean Sarah Lovett, aged 26, her fiancé David Emersson, aged 35, and Karen Iversdahl, aged 34, both Americans, as they fled the burning building.

The Keightley family originally came from Bridgend, but emigrated at the end of the Second World War to what was then Rhodesia, where Gerald was born to Mrs Slade's daughter, Ivy, who still lives there. He married and settled on the large New Olive Farm, near Bulawayo. The

farm flourished and according to his grandmother the family "were very happy out there and lived very well".

The Keightleys stayed on in Zimbabwe at the end of the war of liberation in 1980, and determined to invest in the country's future, took out Zimbabwean citizenship. Mrs Slade said yesterday: "They did not worry about any trouble in the country. They always felt safe and apart from two robberies on the farm they never came to any harm."

The Keightley family, with the other 11 whites killed in the massacre, bring to 66 the number of whites murdered since the outbreak of dissident activity in Matabeleland in 1982. Then, guerrilla veterans of Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zanu party (predominantly drawn from the Ndebele tribe) started a bloody campaign directed against the Government of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwean Prime Minister, and his (Shona dominated) Zanu PF party.

Mr Mike Wood, retired President of the Matabeleland Commercial Farmers' Union, who was until recently the chief security adviser to the farmers in the area, told *The Times* that both blacks and whites were "deeply disgusted by this barbaric act", and added that the farmers in Matabeleland were no more scared now than they had been during the last five years.

"We carry a weapon with us at all times and have security fences up around our houses and try and carry on as normal," he said. "What else can we do?"

## Pretoria 'spy' gets 25-year sentence

From Jan Raath, Harare

Mr Justice Wilson Sandura, Zimbabwe's Judge President, yesterday sentenced an apparently emotionally disturbed white South African woman to 25 years in jail for spying and indicated that he would prefer to have her shot.

The judge found Odile Eone Harington guilty of espionage for South Africa against the African National Congress in Zimbabwe. He refused leave to appeal against the sentence.

After her description of "gross mistreatment" that included sexual assault while under interrogation by the Zimbabwe Central Intelligence Organization, Mr Justice Sandura said: "The most appropriate sentence in a case such as this is, in my view, the death penalty."

"In some parts of the world the accused would, shortly after my remarks, be facing a firing squad."

Miss Harington admitted having been sent as a refugee by South African security police to Zimbabwe with instructions to infiltrate the ANC and relay messages to them.

The dark-haired, attractive young woman told the court that she had been whipped with electric flex and hosepipe. On one occasion, while she was menstruating, she was forced to strip naked and CIO officers spat at her private parts.

She said she was kept in solitary confinement and had her head thrust in a bucket of water until she came close to drowning.

Deprived of food, she was once taken into a Harare restaurant and made to watch while an ANC official ate a meal in front of her, she said. She also said she had made two attempts at suicide.

## Pope scorns apartheid

Rome (AP) — The Pope yesterday told southern African bishops that he shared their condemnation of racial discrimination while deploring violence as a way of redressing wrongs.

He told them at an audience: "The only adequate solution to the problem is the conversion of hearts." The Pope expressed "full solidarity" with his visitors.

"Year in, year out, you have stood with your people in their needs, and at the same time you have withstood much unjust criticism in transmitting to them the uplifting message of the Gospel," he said. The Pope praised their struggle for human rights and "the fundamental equality of all persons", and urged "the banishment of systematic discrimination".

WORLD SUMMER  
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## WORLD SUMMARY

## Ershad declares an emergency

Dhaka — President Ershad last night declared a state of emergency in Bangladesh, banning all political activities and suspending fundamental rights (Ahmed Fazi writes).

An official announcement said all public demonstrations, political rallies and strikes had been banned and a curfew was imposed in Dhaka from midnight until 6am. The state of emergency followed violent civil unrest which has gone on since early November and a call by the opposition for a 72-hour general strike across the country.

## Pardon for rebels General replaced

Bangkok — The Thai Government has pardoned 33 men accused of trying to overthrow it by a violent rebellion in September 1985 (Neil Kelly writes). But similar charges against seven prominent figures, including General Kriangsak Chomanan, the former Prime Minister, have not been dropped.

General Prachuab Suntharangkul, the Interior Minister, said that those released yesterday were "not plotters" but had been forced to follow orders during the Army insurrection.

Peking (AP) — General Yang Dezhi, the Army Chief of Staff, who oversaw deep cuts in military manpower and defence spending during his seven-year tenure, was replaced yesterday by a younger officer.

The state-run Xinhua News Agency said General Yang, aged 77, was replaced by General Chi Haotian, aged 61, the political commissar of the Jinan Military Command and former deputy Chief of Staff. His retirement had been expected ever since he was dropped from the Communist Party Politburo.

## Broadcast strike ends

Jerusalem — An eight-week Israeli broadcasting strike ended yesterday partly because journalists agreed that the public should have been able to know about Wednesday's Palestinian hang-glider raid as it was going on (Ian Murray writes). Under the back-to-work agreement, the journalists' claim that their pay should not be tied to civil-service rates will go to arbitration.

## Flats raid in Berlin Fears over base jobs

Police have raided at least four East Berlin apartments as part of a crackdown on illegal disarmament and environmental groups which shelter under the umbrella of the East German Protestant Church, according to church sources (Alexander Johnson writes). Several people were arrested, including an artist, Martin Hoffman, and a writer, Rutz Rathenow.

Madrid — The dismissal of four Spanish employees of US forces in Spain, reportedly without the required authorization from the Defence Ministry, provoked fears yesterday about job security for 3,000 other workers employed at four American bases whose future is in doubt (Harry Debelius writes).

There was no immediate comment from Spanish officials, nor did the US Air Force offer any immediate explanation. Labour leaders are concerned that the layoffs might be part of an American reaction to the Spanish Government's demands for a reduction of the US military presence.

## Smoker is stabbed

Bonn — A Cologne post office porter has been arrested for stabbing a fellow worker who broke an agreement that he would blow his smoke out of an office window when having a cigarette (John England writes). The smoker, recovering in hospital from stab wounds, broke his pledge to his asthmatic colleague two nights ago when the temperature dropped to zero and it was too cold to open the window.

## Myth machines chip in to American yarns

From Charles Brenner New York

Everyone knows about the Chinese restaurant that served up dog, or the pet that was put in the microwave.

Like the alligators in the New York sewers or the saga of grandma's body, these are the apocryphal stories that circulate with infinite variation by word of mouth — and sometimes pop up as fact in newspaper reports.

These legends, usually nasty, often macabre, and nearly always claimed as the experience of a friend of a friend, go back to the earliest fireside folklore. But lightning-fast communications have speeded up the story-telling and added a technological twist that has provided a fruitful field for America's specialists in the urban yarn.

According to Mr Jan Bruvand, an researcher into the genre, it used to take years for folk tales to develop and spread. Now the advent of long-distance dialling, photocopies and computers have speeded the propaga-

tion of the 1980s variety greatly. Some experts have coined the term "Xerox lore" for the circulation of stories by office workers that are seductively plausible, have no basis in fact, and have a life of their own.

The Los Angeles Times recently fell victim to a current and gentle tale that usually involves a film star. It published and later retracted the story of a woman who became so flustered on seeing Robert Redford in an ice-cream parlour that she stuffed her cone in her handbag and licked her purse.

Another enduring legend of recent years is the Halloween sadist. Every American parent knows it is no longer safe for children to go out "trick-or-treating" on the night of October 31 because there have been cases of sadists handing them apples with razor blades buried inside. Not true, the experts say. It never happened.

Halloween was also behind a tale that swept the country last month and seems to have come from Chaucer. A woman makes love with a man she

assumes to be her husband at a local fancy-dress party and finds later she had been with the neighbour who had borrowed his costume.

Mr Bruvand, a Utah University lecturer who tracks legends globally, says the tanning story is this year's top tale. A bridesmaid or cheerleader wants a tan in a hurry, so she joins several tanning establishments and visits them all. Saloons limit the number of visits for health reasons. She cooks her innards just like the pet in the microwave of a few years ago.

The biggest boost to the legend business has come from computers. With their capacity for passing information in informal networks, the computer is the ideal myth machine, says Mr Bruvand.

Computer operators, it seems, are superstitious souls. What they most fear is killer software, a real case of the ghost in the machine. This, in various forms, is a programme that has an undetectable and unremovable feature

that amounts to a phantom whose aim is to destroy all his files — or worse.

In a variation, the playful Cookie monster (from the children's programme *Sesame Street*) appears saying: "Me want cookie." If the operator fails to type "cookie", it kills all his work. In another, Richard Nixon appears, saying "Want pardon — or else".

Less fun is the virus programme. This is a hi-tech version of the chain letter that finishes, in some versions, with nuclear war. What happens is that each secret programme has instructions to dial up three other computers at night and pass on its instructions. In the end, the chain leads to the Defence Department's most secret mainframes, with catastrophic results.

A function of the new myth, according to Mr Joel Best, a Californian sociology professor, is that they are impervious to debunking. "Urban legends are harder to kill than vampires," he says.

## Britain in push for Rock deal

From Richard Wigg Madrid

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said here yesterday before talks with Spain on the joint use of Gibraltar airport that he was determined to reach an agreement "beneficial to both sides".

But senior officials of both countries, who have worked practically non-stop in Madrid and London all this week to present Sir Geoffrey and Señor Francisco Fernández Ordóñez, his Spanish counterpart, with a compromise formula, emphasized that a delicate balance still needed to be struck.

Sir Geoffrey had gone straight from the airport to call briefly on Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, and then had an audience with King Juan Carlos before getting down to the talks scheduled to go on yesterday evening and be resumed today.

Britain and Spain are under pressure to reach an agreement so that EEC transport ministers can give the go-ahead to a European air-lane liberalization package at their December 7 meeting. This was vetoed by Spain, over the Gibraltar issue, in June.

## London linked to Swedish arms deals

By Andrew McEwen

A British connection has come to light in investigations into the mysterious death of a Swedish government official.

It has put a spotlight, probably unwelcome to the Ministry of Defence, on a deal which was either secret or of which very little was known and which lasted 21 years. Between 1963 and 1984 Britain acted as an agent in selling weapons and ammunition made by two Swedish companies to a number of other countries.

There are allegations in Sweden that the customers included Middle East nations, which would be illegal under Swedish law. The ministry confirmed yesterday its role as an agent but refused to name either the countries which bought the weapons or the regions where the sales took place.

If proved, the allegations could

result in prosecutions in Sweden of officials of one of the companies, but there has been no suggestion that the ministry broke any British law.

Last January, Mr Carl Algermon, a Swedish war materials inspector, either fell or jumped under a Stockholm underground train. A police inquiry failed to establish whether the death was suicide or an accident, but foul play was considered unlikely.

Mr Algermon worked for a department of the Swedish Foreign Office which checks arms exports to ensure that no weapons go to countries which are at war or in volatile areas. The Middle East is such an area. Now a Swedish prosecutor, Mr Folke Ljungwall, has said that notes found in Mr Algermon's briefcase contained references to the British deal.

The notes indicated that Mr Algermon knew when he approved of

the sale of a naval gun to the Ministry of Defence in 1982 that it would be re-exported to Oman.

The hand-written notes were shown on Swedish television on Thursday.

Mr Ljungwall's interpretation of the notes is substantiated, it would have a bearing on the central issue he is investigating: whether the Swedish Government knew that weapons sold to intermediaries would eventually reach countries banned from receiving them.

Reuters reported from Stockholm yesterday that executives of Bofors AB, the best-known arms manufacturer in Sweden, had said that there was tacit government approval of the deals, which would make them immune from prosecution.

In the notes, Mr Algermon wrote: "The export could be made to the Brits in this special case."

Mr Ljungwall commented:

"There is nothing to prove that Algermon knew of any more smuggling cases."

The Ministry of Defence said that the deal, which was terminated in 1984 at the request of the Swedish Government, appointed the ministry as an agent to sell weapons made by Bofors and by Forenade Fabriksverken, usually known as FSV.

Until 1983 the ministry assumed that the two companies would inform their own government of any weapon sales they made via Britain. A ministry spokesman argued that this was a reasonable assumption because FSF is owned by the Swedish Government.

In 1983 the ministry became aware of new Swedish regulations tightening controls. It informed the companies that in future the ministry would send the Swedish Government details of any sales made under the deal.

It also told the companies that they would be required to comply with Swedish regulations which call for end-user certificates showing the ultimate destination of the weapons. The ministry said Bofors confirmed in writing that it would comply with these requirements.

The weapons sold included Bofors 40 mm light anti-aircraft guns, ammunition and flares, 105 mm illuminating shells, and Carl Gustav 84 mm anti-tank guns.

The Bofors anti-aircraft guns have been standard equipment on Royal Navy vessels since the Second World War. One of the purposes of the deal was to provide a legal framework for sales of British vessels to other countries when armed with the Bofors guns. It allowed Britain to avoid removing the guns before selling the ships, and to continue supplying replacements, spares and ammunition.

## Nato shifts spotlight to conventional weapons

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Senior Nato officials warned yesterday that despite Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's peace offensive and the Euro-missiles treaty to be signed in Washington shortly, Soviet defence spending was on the increase and the Soviet military threat showed "no sign of diminishing".

Officials strongly disputed a controversial report by the seven-nation Western European Union which claimed Nato assessments of the Soviet conventional threat were exaggerated.

Nato is to hold a series of high-level meetings before and after the Gorbachev-Reagan summit. Next Monday and Tuesday Nato defence ministers meet in Brussels to review ways of reducing the Warsaw Pact's advantage in conventional troops and

weapons, which has acquired dramatic new significance.

This will be followed by a review of European security by leaders at the Copenhagen EEC summit on December 4 and 5.

Officials said the INF treaty would completely alter the context within which Nato had to consider its strategy for deterring the Warsaw Pact. Sources said Soviet defence spending used to rise by 1 to 2 per cent a year at most. Nato intelligence estimates suggested it was now rising by 3 to 4 per cent.

A report this week by the Western European Union's parliamentary assembly defence committee took issue with the Nato view that the alliance is outnumbered by a ratio of three to one in tanks and artillery. It said Nato had

rough equivalence with the Soviet bloc in fighter aircraft; that the technology of Western air and naval forces was far superior to those of the East; and, above all, that although the Warsaw Pact had far more tanks, they were mostly obsolete while more than 30 per cent of Nato's tanks, such as the American M-1, dated from 1980 or later.

Nato officials yesterday countered this by pointing to the union report's conclusion that the Warsaw Pact still had an "overwhelming" edge.

"We know what we see on the ground," one official remarked. "We could do with a bit of glasnost in the military sphere."

Soviet defence spending is difficult to calculate, but Nato estimates put it at more than 15 per cent of the Soviet GNP.

## Takeshita on beaten track

From David Watts, Tokyo

Japan's new Prime Minister called his country to arms against a sea of foreign woes in his first policy speech yesterday.

Mr Noboru Takeshita said Japan must liberalize its financial markets and work to remove trade problems with other countries.

But his speech to Parliament, which adhered closely to the foreign policy pursued by Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, his predecessor, broke no new ground.

His speech, supposed to establish the philosophy and something of the legislative programme of the new

Government, was deliberately unambiguous.

The leader of the opposition Japan Socialist Party, Miss Takako Doi, called it a speech without a backbone. The Democratic Socialist leader, Mr Junya Yano, said in a reference to the Prime Minister's address that he was hiding a sword under his robe.

But if there was a sword beneath the robe there was no sign of it yesterday.

Mr Takeshita's platitudes on foreign trade carry little impact: it is not the technicalities of access to the Japanese market that concern foreign Governments but the fact that Japanese companies are still

buying market share abroad by refusing to raise export prices in line with the strength of the yen.

As the Bank of Japan has observed, the yen has increased 59 per cent against the dollar since late 1985, but Japanese goods exported to the US over the same period have increased in price by 35 per cent.

Mr Takeshita told Parliament: "There may be times when we will have to ask the people to forbear and endure." He made it clear that the essence of his approach is to restore the faith, confidence and prosperity of Japanese regions.



One of the two French hostages released in Beirut yesterday, M. Jean-Louis Normandin, being helped away by a French diplomat after he was freed from a car with M. Roger Augue.

## Royal Navy's Gulf workload rises

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain's Gulf naval force, the Armilla Patrol, has escorted 17 million tonnes of commercial shipping in the last three months after a substantial increase in its work rate.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who has just returned from the Gulf, told *The Times* yesterday that 10 to 15 ships a week were now being escorted through the Strait of Hormuz. The total for the year was already more than 320 vessels.

Britain's commitment to the Gulf sea lanes now involves one-third of its frigates and destroyer fleet because of the need for regular rotation of vessels and crews. Mr Mellor said no Royal Navy vessel nor any ships escorted by the patrol had been attacked.

Both the British and US navies face demands for the

scope of cover to be extended. An Iranian attack on a tanker on Thursday took place within view of a US frigate, which did not intervene as the US Navy's rules of engagement confine it to the protection of US-flagged ships.

The crew of the 66,000-tonne Kuwaiti tanker, Umm al-Jathathel, expressed dismay at the Americans' refusal to help. The vessel's name had been painted out and replaced with that of a Romanian tanker, the Dacia, in the hope of reducing the risks of attack.

British sources yesterday expressed irritation with the demands for deeper involvement. One official said it was unreasonable to expect countries which already made a sizeable effort to stretch themselves further. It is also understood that if a British warship witnessed an attack on a ship

not flying the Red Ensign it would ignore the incident, just as the US Navy did.

● **BAHRAIN:** Iraq claimed yesterday that its planes attacked an unidentified supertanker off the Iranian coast — its first acknowledged air strike on Iranian shipping since last Sunday (Our Correspondent writes). There was no independent confirmation of the attack on what Iraq's news agency called a "very large naval target".

● **SYDNEY:** Australia will consider sending a 20-man mine-clearing naval team to the Gulf in response to an approach by the US (Keith Dalton writes). Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, confirmed that the Cabinet would consider sending Navy frogmen rather than a warship or maritime aircraft.

## THE TIMES GUERNSEY GILET IN 100% PURE NEW WOOL

This 'gilet' or button-through waistcoat is warm and practical as well as being smart and stylish to wear. It is made in Guernsey from 100% pure new wool and has many of the features that make Guernsey knitwear so popular.

The gilet is made up with a tight close knit for added warmth and wind resistance and the strong high-quality wool ensures that it is tough and hardwearing. The styling is classic, with a ribbed crew-neck, armholes and hem, with the same neat ribbing knitted across the two patch pockets. The gilet buttons through from neck to hem, and is also characterised as a Guernsey garment by the small slit openings at either side of the deep hem.

Suitable for both men and women, the gilet is ideal as a stylish body warmer over shirts and tops and will team well with a variety of skirts and trousers. The Guernsey gilet is a smart high-quality garment that has been specially selected for Times readers and is available in a choice of navy blue or grey with black buttons or oatmeal with wooden buttons. It may be dry cleaned or hand washed with care.

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# Cuban prisoners reject deal to end siege

From Christopher Thomas, Atlanta

A tentative agreement to end an uprising by Cuban prisoners at the maximum security Atlanta Federal Penitentiary collapsed early yesterday as inmates argued among themselves about the terms.

Government negotiators insisted that 50 of the 94 hostages, all members of the prison staff, must be released as a goodwill gesture before the agreement could take effect. Three prisoners' leaders accepted the demand but it was rejected when it was put to a vote of the 1,000 inmates who are holding the jail.

The siege at a minimum security detention centre in Oakdale, Louisiana, showed signs yesterday that it could end soon after six days of rioting that have reduced the modern facility to ashes.

One of the 28 hostages was released yesterday after being stabbed. The prisoner who attacked him, who is described as mentally ill, was also sent to hospital.

Earlier, another hostage was released as a sign of good faith as government negotiators said that they were close to a deal. Cuban-American leaders went into the prison to help as intermediaries. FBI officials said that they did not know details of the stabbing but did not believe it meant the hostages were to be killed.

The Atlanta crisis is potentially the most dangerous because many of the prisoners have been convicted of violent crimes and are mentally ill.

Conditions at the jail, built in 1901, are primitive and cramped. Most of it has now been destroyed by fire.

Rioting at both jails came after the announcement a week ago of a deal with Cuba to return 2,500 Cubans from the 1980 Mariel boat-lift in exchange for allowing 20,000 Cubans a year to enter the US. Those facing deportation have police records or are mentally ill.

Three prominent Cuban exiles are helping negotiations in Atlanta. They are Mr Roberto Perez, a political prisoner for 20 years who was freed in May; Mr Armando Valledres, jailed in Cuba for 22 years and author of a best-selling book about his experiences; and Mr Jorge Mas Canosa, an adviser to Radio Marti, the US Government propaganda station broadcasting to Cuba.

Outside the prison itself, in a soaking holiday drizzle, scores of Cuban families waited for news. They know nothing. Most are penniless. Few speak good English.

Across the street, plumes of smoke rise from inside the 17ft prison walls, a reminder of the previous night's burning. One Cuban is already dead. Others may have perished in a blaze that destroyed the jail's broom factory.

At the nearby Sacred Heart Catholic church, exhausted families snatch sleep and eat. The Immaculate Heart of



Angela Burgess, a relative of a hostage at Atlanta jail, tying a yellow ribbon, the symbol of homecoming, to the prison fence.

Mary Catholic church conducts Mass in Spanish. Every day more people arrive, invariably carrying children. All are convinced that their loved ones are to be deported back to Cuba.

Inside the grim prison Thomas Silverstein, a notorious multiple murderer, is trying to establish himself as a prisoners' spokesman. He is serving three consecutive life sentences. He stabbed one of his victims, a prison warden,

36 times with a home-made knife. Silverstein is an English-speaking American but a prison official said the Cubans regarded him as "their No. 1 hombre" because they feel he has stood up to the prison system.

He is so dangerous he was permanently isolated in a white-walled cell by 7ft cell and allowed out for exercise an hour once a week, handcuffed and escorted by four guards. The authorities are horrified at the prospect of negotiating with the man who calls himself "El Berserko".

# Ozal promise on prices as pressure builds

From Michael Dynes, Ankara

Mr Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister of Turkey, is under considerable pressure from Mr Erdal Inonu, the leader of the main opposition group, the centre-left Social Democratic Populist Party, to defend the Government's economic track record in the remaining hours before tomorrow's general election.

As Turkey's 26-million electorate prepares to vote, Mr Ozal - who came to power in 1983 on the strength of his record as an economic wizard - responded to fears of further inflation and promised there would be no general price rises if his conservative Motherland Party is returned.

But with the annual inflation rate running at 45 per cent, Mr Ozal gave a warning that his administration would have to do whatever was necessary in a further term - including raising prices on some goods and services - to lay the foundations for continued economic expansion.

Mr Ozal, who was appointed by his electoral rival, Mr Suleyman Demirel, the leader of the centre-right True Path Party, to oversee the International Monetary Fund-sponsored economic stabilization programme in 1979, after Turkey's balance of payments crisis two years earlier, has pursued a controversial policy of single-minded economic growth.

Opposition parties reluctantly credit him with bringing the country back from the brink of economic collapse in the late 1970s, when the Government had to endure the humiliation of oil-tanker captains refusing to unload unless they were paid in advance.

The opposition parties insist that the Prime Minister's obsession with growth at all costs will lead to the economy resembling that of a Latin American nation, burdened by borrowing from abroad. Turkey's foreign debt already exceeds \$32 billion (£17.8 billion).

But as interest in the election takes hold here in the capital, Mr Ozal seems to have captured the imagination of the country with his election slogan "Turkey has leapt an age" - reminiscent of China's

"great leap forward" campaign in the 1950s.

Along Ankara's main Ataturk Boulevard, an immense picture of Mr Ozal, smiling benignly, can be seen hanging from one of the city's main construction sites.

Nerves are frayed at his party headquarters, as activists dissect their campaign performance and try to reassure themselves that they are on target for the majority needed to push ahead with the Prime Minister's economic policies.

In contrast, a beaming Mr Inonu is hoping that his brilliantly-executed campaign will cut Mr Ozal's majority

Edirne, Turkey - Bulgarians yesterday allowed eight children of Turkish descent to be reunited with their families who had defected to Turkey. Turkish news agencies said (AP reports). Their arrival brought to 32 the number of such children who have been reunited with their families so far this year.

down to size or even produce a hung parliament, forcing the Motherland Party to consider coalition government.

There is no hint of despondency among Mr Inonu's followers that the electoral system, skewed to accentuate the number of seats won by the largest party, and the widespread aversion to coalitions in the wake of the political paralysis they engendered in the late 1970s, will neutralize the impact of their campaign.

Mr Demirel's True Path Party appears resigned to the possibility of being beaten into third place. But the subject of many street-corner political debates is whether the leader of the Islamic fundamentalist Welfare Party, Mr Necmettin Erbakan, will take fourth place from Mr Bulent Ecevit's Democratic Left Party.

Under Turkey's electoral law, all electioneering will come to a halt today in order to give the electors a more relaxed atmosphere in which to consider their decision.

If they vote overwhelmingly for Mr Ozal tomorrow, the outcome could be known by Monday.

# South Africans to see new Biko film

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Sir Richard Attenborough's film, *Cry Freedom*, about the life and death of the South African black activist, Steve Biko, and the white newspaper editor who championed his cause, has been approved for general release here without any cuts and with no age restriction on the audience.

Sir Richard's previous film, *Gandhi*, part of which was set in South Africa at the turn of the century and dealt with the issue of race discrimination, was also shown here uncut. *Cry Freedom*, however, depicts events of contemporary South African history that still arouse high emotion and controversy.

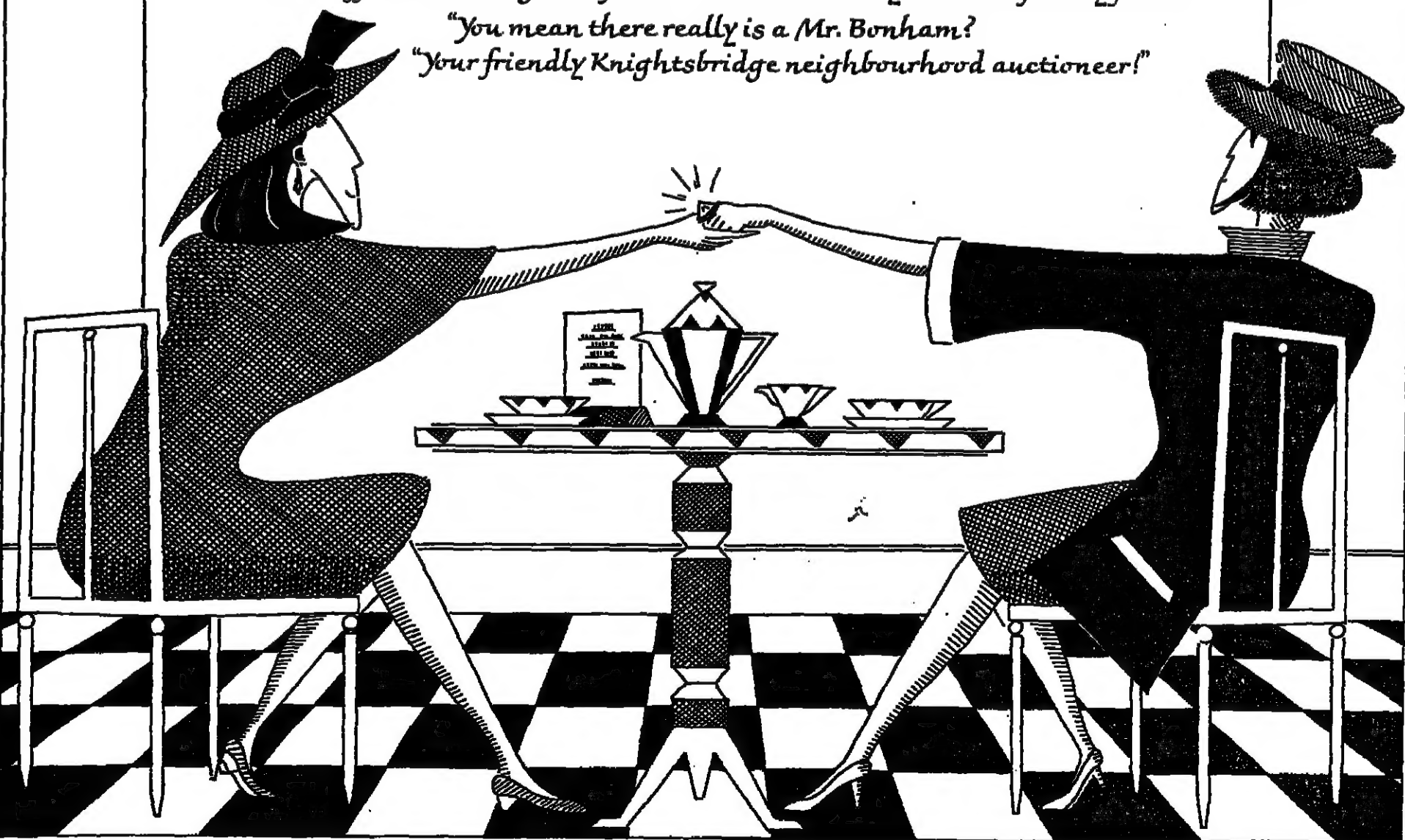
Harrowing scenes in the film of white police cold-bloodedly shooting down black youngsters in Soweto in 1976 could be argued to contravene state of emergency regulations forbidding the reporting of "unrest", even though the unrest in this instance is a fictional reconstruction of past events.

There are other legal issues. Many of Biko's writings are still "banned" and cannot be quoted. Mr Woods, whose escape from South Africa through Lesotho is depicted in the film and who now lives in exile in Britain, is also "banned".

The decision to show *Cry Freedom*, announced yesterday by the Directorate of Publications in Cape Town to which all films must be submitted before they can be shown, highlights one of the more remarkable paradoxes of a society that is often too simply depicted as an unrelieved police state.

While the Government has imposed draconian restrictions on press freedom over the past two years under successive states of emergency, the official bodies responsible for censoring films, books and plays have promoted what, by South African standards, verges on an orgy of libertarianism.

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## Kremlin orders big changes in ailing health care system

From a Correspondent, Moscow

The Soviet Union has announced a drastic reorganization of its overburdened and inefficient national health service, including compulsory annual medical check-ups and a new building programme that will add 1.5 million hospital beds by the year 2000.

The health system has been heavily criticized in the past by the official media, and is considered one of the areas where Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's campaign of *perestroika* (restructuring) can show some relatively fast and tangible results. The Soviet leader, under pressure from conservative elements within the Communist Party to show concrete benefits from his reforms, needs a domestic success.

*Pravda* yesterday devoted three full pages, including the front, to the programme. The introductory section was brutally frank about the poor health of Soviet citizens, their devotion to alcohol and increased use of other drugs, and the inefficiency of the cradle-

to-grave free health-care system that has resulted in a reduced life expectancy for Soviet men in recent years.

The party newspaper said the average life expectancy was 65 years for males and 67 for females. Comparative figures in Britain are 71.3 and 77.3, respectively. The official report says that more than a third of the country's 283 million citizens are seriously overweight. The state provides seven billion roubles (£7 billion) a year in sick pay.

The reorganization involves a shift in emphasis from treatment of illness to preventive measures, and a national education campaign to teach citizens the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and diet.

The most ambitious aspect of the plan is the introduction of annual mandatory medical check-ups and "medical passports" for all the population by 1993. These documents will give health officials the date of each consultation and detail any illness or treatment. The annual state health

budget is 16 billion roubles. Soviet officials have said it must double for the reorganization to have any real effects. Half the budget goes on doctors' salaries.

An additional 1.5 million hospital beds will be available, along with out-patient clinics that can handle three million patient-visits per eight-hour shift. The clinic building programme is essential if the plan to introduce compulsory check-ups is to work.

Mr Yevgeny Chazov, the Health Minister, said a priority of the restructured health system would be to conduct a national fitness programme. "By 1989, we must see the introduction of a physical training programme with compulsory physical training exercises taking six to eight hours a week instead of the two to four hours now."

Medical school education, considered to be poor, will also be revamped. The plan calls for the state "to raise the professional skills" of medical personnel.

## Filipinos clear up as Typhoon Nina's toll rises



A man in the town of Cavite, 100 miles south of Manila, battling to right his house yesterday, blown over as Typhoon Nina swept across the Central Philippines. The death toll reached 380 yesterday but is expected to rise when two badly hit areas provide their first casualty figures (Reuters reports). Brigadier-General Luis San Andres, the military

commander of the Bicol region, said more than 100,000 people were made homeless when the typhoon hit the area on Wednesday. Many of the casualties were reported in Sorsogon province where giant tidal waves smashed on to the coastal homes of fishermen. Rescue workers were battling through flooded areas yesterday searching for survivors in

deserted villages, damaged rice fields and coconut plantations. President Aquino declared a state of emergency in 11 provinces in the central part of the country. Rescuers have recovered 316 bodies in Sorsogon, 35 in Albay province and nine in Camarines Sur province. Thousands have fled to evacuation centres in churches and schools.

## Cabinet crisis in Trinidad

Port of Spain — Mr Arthur Robinson, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, yesterday was putting together a new Cabinet after ordering the resignation of all 12 Cabinet ministers on Thursday (Jeremy Taylor writes).

At issue is the authority and direction of the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction which swept to power last December. Mr Robinson has the power to reconstruct his Cabinet without recourse to either Parliament or to the electorate.

### £5,500 award

Heidelberg (AFP) — The British biologist Dr Hugh Huxley, aged 63, has been presented in this German city with the World Cultural Council's £5,500 Albert Einstein award for research on chemical reactions in muscles.

### Court battle

Bhopal (Reuters) — A court battle over compensation for victims of the world's worst industrial disaster resumed in Bhopal after settlement talks between India and Union Carbide Corporation failed.

### Rebel held

Kampala (AFP) — Mr Smith Opon Acaak, the former Ugandan Army Chief of Staff who became a rebel leader, has been captured by government troops in the eastern Mubale district, Uganda Radio said.

### Drought toll

Delhi (AFP) — Diseases related to last summer's drought in India, described as the worst in a century, have claimed a total of 1,740 lives.

### Three freed

Panama City (AFP) — Three opposition leaders have been freed after 45 days' imprisonment. They had been sentenced to six months for subversive conspiracy.

### Nazi move

Canberra (AFP) — Parliament has passed the War Crimes Amendment Bill, which enables the prosecution of Nazi war criminals living here.

### Brain fever

Colombo (AFP) — Japanese encephalitis, or brain fever, has killed 53 people in Sri Lanka over the past 10 weeks, the Health Ministry said.

## UN to check 'beaten' children in explosive Gaza Strip

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

Repeated claims by young children in the occupied Gaza Strip that they are systematically beaten up by Israeli soldiers are to be investigated by UN doctors. The claims come against a rapidly accelerating background of violence in recent months, in which scarcely a day goes by without demonstrations and arrests.

"You can feel the hatred building up over the last two months," Mr Bernard Mills, the British director of the UN Relief and Works Agency said. "It is like a miasma over the whole place."

Over that period he said the agency had become increasingly concerned by the repeated reports and stories from children in the refugee schools that anybody arrested by Israeli troops, regardless of age, was beaten up as a matter of routine. In consequence agency doctors would now be examining all children released by the security forces to collect evidence of ill-treatment for presentation to the UN.

The first dossier involved 12 youngsters who were arrested inside the agency training centre last Saturday during a violent demonstration protesting at the deportation order being sought against Aziz Odeh, who is alleged to be a spiritual leader of the Islamic Jihad group. The 12 took no part in the demonstration, but after their arrest three of them required hospital treatment. "I find this infuriating for two reasons," Mr Mills said. "First it brutalizes the soldiers who do it. Second it breeds hatred among the people."

Anger and violence are very close to the surface in Gaza these days. The 2,500 Israeli settlers in the Strip usually only drive out in convoys in their cars with the telltale yellow Israeli plates. They tend to use the country road along the beach rather than risk driving down the main route through the orange groves and towns where youngsters can throw stones at passing cars and escape.

The rise in violent resistance, especially among teenagers, appears to be the direct consequence

of the round-up of several hundred school children after demonstrations about a year ago, protesting at the shooting of two Gaza students.

According to one agency teacher, a kind of camaraderie built up among the young detainees, which survived and grew after they were released. "Refugee children used to be desperately eager for education," the teacher said. "They used to see it as the only way to escape from the camps. Now they are looking to violence."

After their arrest the youngsters lost not only their fear of prison, but even their fear of death, one health worker said. "Although they were badly treated, they came to the conclusion that it was not all that much worse than life in the camps and it was far more honourable. They are now the real leaders of the community."

The fact that there are so few job opportunities inside the Strip means that around 60,000 men and boys leave to find work in Israel. From 4.00 am the queue of cars and taxis start off up the road to places as far away as Haifa. Fourteen

hours later the men are back, exhausted, thinking of snatching a few hours sleep before getting up for the long journey north for work the next day.

Some of the children, like 14-year-old Ahmed from El Mughazi camp, play truant and go to work inside Israel too. He can earn 30 shekels (£12.50) a day in the Tel Aviv market, but since it costs £3 for the return fare, he sleeps rough and illegally in the city most nights to save money. There are hundreds like him of all ages. "A great chunk of our society is missing," the health worker said. So the leadership in Gaza is left in the hands of the young and the women, who are increasingly involved in clashes with security forces, especially if their children are arrested. Many draw inspiration from Islam, which fires their anger and makes them more prepared to die.

Last month Musbah Souri from El Mughazi died. An escaped security prisoner, whom the Israelis say was a member of the Islamic Jihad, the car he was travelling in was caught in an ambush. Four

days later his mother, Hannah, was arrested. Ten days after that she was told in prison that her son had been shot. She was released and allowed to bury him, in the middle of the night in case there was trouble at the funeral.

Two of her other sons had been in prison and she has now lost her third home. The first was the farm near Ashdod from where she fled with her husband in 1948. The second was at Jabaliya camp, which was bulldozed flat 16 years ago for a road-widening scheme. The last was in El Mughazi, which was bulldozed flat this month as a punishment for her dead son's conviction for security offences. She is dry eyed and immeasurably angry, standing in the rubble of her home.

Her anger is contagious in the teeming camps where the population, at an average of 1,730 per square kilometre, is among the most dense on earth and is rapidly growing.

The 15 Israeli settlements in the Strip, which between them occupy about 8 per cent of the available

land, fire the resentment. The wells are turning brackish and drying up. Gaza, which has been a fertile oasis for hundreds of years, will need to import water in 10 years' time. The 2,500 settlers between them use one third of the available water on their land.

Seemingly oblivious to it all, the settlement at Gush Katif has built a bizarre luxury beach hotel on the golden sands which are one of Gaza's few natural amenities. "A world of untouched paradisiacal beaches," the enthusiastic brochure says. "... Discover the lifestyle of the neighbouring Moshavim (settlement) and meet the friendly Bedouin living and working as they have for generations."

These are some of the elements that make Gaza what Mr Ezer Weizman, Minister without Portfolio, called last week: "A time bomb waiting to go off."

Those on the spot say the fuse is now very short. "I think it is bound to explode in the next nine months to a year," one senior observer said. "The anger is too great to be contained much longer."

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## SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

### Over the sea to sky

When you have no changing rooms, no showers and a ferry timetable that seems positively hostile to football, you have a hard time persuading people to play against you. A club official from the island of Mull sighed: "The greatest difficulty we face in developing the game is the horror that visiting teams show at our primitive conditions." However, this is a happy story: the Football Trust, which is run by the pools companies and which raises cash for the game's development with Spot the Ball, is spending £50,000 on lifting the game in the Scottish islands, with £25,000 going to Mull. The Shetlands, Harris, Lewis and Islay are also getting some assistance. Ness, a team on Lewis, get gates of 1,000. "Football is the most important leisure activity on the island," a spokesman for the Trust said. "I have always been a great supporter of my club."

### Mr Cinders

This has been a year to salute the greatest trainer of them all. No, not Henry Cecil. I grant you he has not had a bad season but he has a way to go before he matches George Curtis. Curtis trained an animal to win 32 successive races, he trained another to win three successive Classics, and has trained 10 Classic winners altogether. All this with a reputation for being the most honest man in the sport, as well as the nicest man you could wish to meet. He just happens to train not horses but dogs, and has recently retired, if you can call it retirement — he has given up training and now merely works 14 hours a day as kennel head man; the man who was his head man is now the trainer. His achievements and his methods are chronicled in *George Curtis: Training Greyhounds*, which, as it happens, was written by my sister, Julia Barnes.

● A buzz reaches me that the 1989 Tour de France will start in Parliament Square. I'll buy my tip-off man a Pernet if he's right.

### Blinders

It's always nice to hear stories about Ivan Lendl's on-concealed membership of the human race. He was recently asked what names John McEnroe called him during tennis matches, and he replied: "Just come follow me on the golf course, and you'll hear them."

BARRY FANTONI



"Well done. One day you might even decline a drugs test."

### Agreed

Here is one more England cricketer goes to, from C. Overton who gets a *Times* tennet for his selection. 1. G. Boycott, for his run out of Randall in 1977; 2. C.W.J. Athey, for reverse sweeping; 3. M.W. Gatting — yes, in again for his double dismissal padding up in 1984; 4. A.W. Carr, who in 1926 put Australia in, promptly dropped Macartney on two and squirmed as Macartney made a century before lunch; 5. D.J. Insole, stumped for nought in 1950 in the last over of the fourth day as England fought to avoid defeat by the West Indies; 6. G. Miller, run out for nought by an 80-yard throw when not watching the ball; 7. G.O. Allen, for that 13-ball over in 1934; 8. A. McIntyre, run out going for a fourth when England were fighting to avoid defeat in Brisbane 1950-51; 9. A.C. Pigott, who postponed his wedding to play in a Test that was over in three days, England lost; 10. F.W. Tate, for that dropped catch; 11. E. Peste, for that missed swing. Though I received this team some weeks ago, by cosmic coincidence five of his selections are the same as those in last week's team. But the first nine in this line-up all made first-class centuries.

● Maidstone United have a player who confesses that his long-term ambition is to be a bookmaker. His name is Alan Risk.

### To the point

The trouble with these silly little tennis exhibition tournaments is that there is no real pressure on the players. So here is a format that seems to provide it quite comprehensively: Ivan Lendl, John McEnroe and a couple of others play this weekend in a tournament in America in which each player starts with £150,000 but forfeits £18,000 every time he loses a game. The two with the most money left will play a best-of-five-games final ... with prize money for each game rising to £90,000.

## But what of 1966 and all that?

by Anthony Seldon

ment, yet, for all their efforts, they also are all too often historically illiterate.

The extent of ignorance about the major aspects of postwar British history is alarming. Barely 3 per cent of sixth formers taking history A level cover any contemporary topic. Few school leavers know anything about, for example, the end of Empire and Britain's changed world role since 1945; about the postwar development in British science and technology; about the origin and subsequent history of the EEC or the Northern Ireland problem; or the postwar records of governments and political parties.

To help remedy the position, the Institute of Contemporary British History was founded exactly one year ago. Modelled in part on institutes in other countries, it has sought through publications, conferences and other means to show that contemporary history can and should be studied, and that the benefits of doing so far outweigh the problems. It has been an uphill struggle.

One argument often employed against contemporary history is that the subject matter is too near, objectivity is difficult and the potential for bias is strong. This has force, but carefully devised, researched and monitored courses can reduce the risks.

Another argument is the lack of documentation. But while it is undeniable that the public records flesh out and provide chapter and verse, the broad lines are often known a long time in advance, especially if the right questions have been put to the key actors or witnesses. The long-heralded opening of the Suez archives in January 1987 fell flat largely because, for all the trumpeting of "new discoveries", so little of fresh significance was discovered. The same story will, in all probability, be true of another "top secret" affair, the Falklands war. With the help of the Franks Report and some excellent investigative writing, we already have a fairly full account of its origins and course.

Still there are undoubted difficulties in writing contemporary history and these are well illustrated by the problems of judging Margaret Thatcher's premiership — a challenge to which writers on this page have often risen. It may well be seen in 15 years time that Thatcher-watchers will have exaggerated the extent of a postwar consensus, and hence the significance of its dismemberment by Mrs Thatcher. It may well be also proven that insufficient regard has been paid to international factors that account for the success in the 1980s of a number of pro-free enterprise administrations. The political landscape by the year 2000 will, in all probability, look remarkably different.

But the difficulties do not invalidate the attempt by serious analysts to try to comprehend the Thatcher years. As David Marquand, Britain's first professor of contemporary history, wrote: "The notion that contemporary history is, in some strange way, less definitive than other kinds of history has always seemed to be foolish. All historians are time-bound, whether they write about the remote past or the day before yesterday." As the years pass new histories will be written, neither better nor worse; they will offer different, longer and, one hopes, more international perspectives.

The survival of a free democratic society requires that its people know far more about how they arrived at where they are than the patry knowledge possessed by its citizens today.

Anthony Seldon is co-director with Peter Hennessy of the Institute of Contemporary British History. Their book, *Ruling Performance*, was published by Basil Blackwell last month.

Fleur de Villiers regrets Attenborough's white liberal epitaph

## Biko: the final irony



Attenborough: sins of omission amid the meticulous detail

racial organization, did not fit Biko's belief that black consciousness and black power were the only effective vehicles for black liberation. In this his views accorded more precisely with the convictions of the Pan African Congress than with the multi-racial ANC, from which the PAC had split in the early 1960s, thus creating a deep and murderous fissure in black politics which has lasted until today.

In the unrest of the last three years one fact which has received little coverage in the West, largely because it does not fit the easy view that black political opinion is homogeneous and united, is the brutal war between Azapo — the linear descendant of Steve Biko's black consciousness movement — and the United Democratic Front, which espouses the ideals of the outlawed ANC. It is unhappy truth that in South Africa today more blacks are killed by other blacks fighting for post-apartheid supremacy than by the security forces. But that is a truth which, like many others, is studiously ignored by *Cry Freedom*.

In a film which lays great store by verisimilitude, events are reproduced with painstaking and often painful accuracy. South African accents, white and black, even in American mouths, are close enough. But if the film does not sin by commission, there are sins of omission made more serious by the fact that audiences, persuaded by the patina of accuracy, will take it for the truth — a truth too awkward, confusing and contradictory for film-makers with a simple message.

If *Cry Freedom* ignores the truth about black politics, it does nothing to dispel the notion that all white South Africans — with the notable exception of Donald Woods, the former editor of a small provincial newspaper who is both the source and the unlikely hero of Attenborough's epic — are murderous, racist thugs. Nor does it reflect the fact that

before and after Woods had fled the country to escape a banning order and publish his Biko memoirs. South African politicians, editors, lawyers and doctors continued to press publicly and vociferously for the truth about Steve Biko's death and the punishment of those involved.

The violent death of a prisoner, wherever it occurs, is an obscenity which cannot be excused by comparative morality. But it is worth remarking that if South Africa were as unrelentingly evil as Attenborough paints it, the inept and ineffectual which continued to dog its government for many years would not have been found and certainly not in the comfort glare of public opinion.

But if *Cry Freedom* shines away from puzzling complexities in its eagerness to convey a message, its greatest betrayal is of Biko himself. However engagingly portrayed by American Denzel Washington, he emerges not as a tragic hero, a man of depth, complexity and passion, but as emblematic and one-dimensional as an icon, the black man as perceived through white eyes.

Indeed, his death occurs halfway through the film, after which it degenerates into the rather spurious excitement of Donald Woods' flight. Attenborough — who relied exclusively on Woods' books as source material — says, disingenuously if revealingly, that, despite his four spells in police custody, Biko had led a "rather uneventful life". The more probable explanation is that a film which told the story, however inadequately, from a white perspective was deemed more palatable for white audiences.

In death, if not in life, Biko has thus become the captive of the white liberals' view of blacks. It is a sad, ironic epitaph for a man whose rallying cry was "black man you're on your own". But if the film fails Biko, it is as superficial as a sepiotop, neither Attenborough nor Woods will surely be too displeased. In the extraordinary hype surrounding its release, both have made it clear that it is the message that counts.

Interviewed on *Wogan*, Woods was explicit. It would be good, he said, if external pressure were to harden white attitudes in South Africa still further. The "good" he would welcome is further polarization, leading inevitably to thousands of deaths, both black and white, before the arrival of his United States.

It is an odd and chilling sentiment for someone who still mourns the death of one man. In fact it leaves me very cold indeed.

© *Times Newspapers*, 1987. The author was political editor of the *Sunday Times*, Johannesburg, 1980-1986.

fortunately, none is found even though a history of over-long working hours with inadequate rest and irregular meals is often uncovered.

Stress, like pain, is subjective, and the capacity to withstand is not infinite. Mrs Thatcher has shown over the last 11 years that she has the character which shrugs off physical disability, whether it is a retinal detachment or an operation for varicose veins; she sleeps little and eats and drinks sparingly.

But history has also shown that, however determined and dedicated she is to implementing her political beliefs, she is also readily affected by human misery and anxieties over her family: a stressful combination.

As well as causing the more commonly recognized stress-related diseases, prolonged stress reduces the efficiency of the body's immune system. If the Prime Minister is to remain in good health for the next four, or nine, years she would be well advised to sleep longer, develop, like Winston Churchill, the knack of having a quick nap, to take more time off, to eat regularly and, above all, to prime her diary.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Robert Kilroy-Silk

## Kinnock words but no action

"We still have very considerable influence in Liverpool City Labour Party", Derek Hutton of Militant boasts, truthfully. "You can't discipline me," Ken Livingstone laughed scornfully in Neil Kinnock's face — "I came fourth in the election to the national executive committee." The two statements made in the last few days demonstrate the arrogant confidence of the extreme and hard left and the powerlessness of the Labour leader.

His only response is to pretend that Hutton, Livingstone and those they speak for do not matter. Last week he confessed that there were still "superficial and spurious" fundamentalist pro-reformation people inventing heresies by the hour within the party. But the electorate had no cause to be alarmed. The "fundamentalists" and all the rest do not count. They are powerless, "on the fringe."

If only it were true. Yet the world knows his claim to be false. The evidence is overwhelming. If Neil will not admit to himself that there are large and powerful sections of the party that are passionately opposed to his leadership and to the values espoused by his new-model Shadow Cabinet then he is deluding himself now to an even greater extent than he did when he convinced himself on polling day that he had won the last general election.

Part of the problem with Neil, as his best friends will testify, is that he so often believes his own rhetoric. He reasons that if he says something often enough it will actually become the truth. He also thinks the words, the mere uttering of them, can solve problems. One big powerful speech on Militant and it will disappear, exorcised by his eloquence. One public rebuke to Livingstone and the little local difficulty is resolved. He never looks better or more authoritative, statesman-like even, than when he is dismissing the party's extreme and unattractive follow-comrades with patronizing comments about their insignificance and ineffectiveness. The reality that remains is different, and depressing.

The fracas with the Brent East MP is but the latest and most publicized example of this. It is easy for the Labour leader to denounce Ken Livingstone at meetings of the Parliamentary Labour Party and the NEC and to castigate all that he stands for in strong and colourful terms. It makes good copy. Except that nothing has changed as a result.

Ken Livingstone continues to commit his heresies, but with even greater nonchalance and public attention than before. And no wonder. He knows that his views on Northern Ireland are shared by large sections of the party. As he gleefully points out, he was voted fourth in the party's annual

popularity contest — with far more support than for the moderates in the Shadow Cabinet. And he got his votes not in spite of, but because of his well-known position on this issue. He also knows that several of Neil's front-bench team are sympathetic to the "Troops Out" movement and appeasement of the IRA. The Campaign group of Labour MPs pledged Livingstone their support and so embarrassed their leader in the sensitive time after the Enniskillen bombing.

The same process — sincere condemnation of an embarrassment to the party, followed by the public humiliation of being unable to follow up the words with deeds — is demonstrated by the Militant infiltration of the party. Despite some expulsions, Militant is still influential, at least on Merseyside.

Some 16 months ago I resigned my Knowsley North seat because it had become dominated by Militant. "Rubbish," a naturally irritated Neil Kinnock retorted, too quickly on *Newnight*. A couple of months later, to prevent the selection of a Militant supporter, he had to impose a candidate for the by-election. He was taken to the High Court by the local party and eventually had it suspended; a subsequent investigation found "a systematic and sustained abuse of party procedures" and recommended that disciplinary action be taken against the chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer and others.

Today, more than two years since the original complaint of Militant infiltration, the constituency party members, though suspended, still serve on the council. The same is true of Liverpool. There was never any doubt among those who know it, violent and turbulent politics that a few fine words and a couple of expulsions would not deal with Militant. It is too firmly entrenched in Liverpool's local parties and the political structure to be wrenched out by an emotional conference speech.

Now there are public reports of a number of current councillors sympathetic to Militant, of the influence of its placement within the administration, and of the way expelled councillors are said to use council offices and facilities to run a "government in exile". No wonder Hutton is so smug.

A party report last week revealed that jettisoning the extremists was regarded by the electorate as the most important task facing the party. So it is. Nor will the voters be fooled by great speeches and vehement denunciations. As the great Thomas Hobbes said, they know that "words are wise men's counters, they do but reckon by them; but they are the money of fools."

© *Times Newspapers*, 1987. The author was a Merseyside Labour MP, 1974-86.

Peter Brimelow

## So much to be thankful for

New York  
This Thursday (to adapt *Henry V* to a transatlantic setting) was the feast of Thanksgiving Day.

And it is a real feast too. The Americans have rearranged most of their public holidays to give them the long weekends that make up (partly) for the fact that even senior executives typically get a mere two weeks' "vacation". But Thanksgiving is special: it remains fixed on the last Thursday of November. And it comes complete with a traditional turkey dinner at which everyone stuffs themselves, silly, just like the British Christmas.

Of course, the Americans have Christmas as well. One of their endearing national characteristics, however, is that they innocently adore all celebrations, and in their practical way they have set about inventing excuses to hold more of them. Thus in the few years I have lived in New York, Halloween has been perceptibly establishing itself as an increasingly major event, complete with a parade, parties and the public wearing of fantastic costumes. It's like the Carnival in Venice — which the Americans would probably also appropriate if more of them had heard of it. (In New York they are already eyeing the annual fête held by southern Italian immigrants in Greenwich Village in honour of their patron saint.)

Thanksgiving is roughly equivalent to a harvest festival. It is supposed to date back to 1621 and the Pilgrim Fathers' day of prayer in gratitude for their first successful crop, which ensured that they would not have to endure the terrible privations of the previous winter directly after they landed, in which so many of them died.

But the historical evidence for a continuous tradition is thin, although several settler communities did sporadically hold such celebrations. Thanksgiving in its modern form really got going only during the Civil War, when the idea was taken up by President Lincoln after the battle of Gettysburg. Subsequently, it spread to the South.

No doubt contributing to Thanksgiving's modern success is the undercurrent of unease surrounding Christmas in American public life. The American constitution prohibits the federal government from establishing a religion. In recent years, this provision has been interpreted

rather radically to require the suppression of almost all public manifestations of Christianity. Christmas itself is too deeply rooted and far too popular to be attacked directly, but all the Christmas cards you get from American corporations now say something studiously neutral, like "Happy Holidays".

Thanksgiving, by contrast, is a national myth in which all can unhesitatingly join.

Indeed, my observation is that it appeals particularly to immigrants, and is often the first sign that they are putting down roots. This process is accelerated by the very great natural generosity of Americans, who are often genuinely distressed that you might be alone at Thanksgiving regardless of whether you know what you're missing, and who will accordingly assiduously search out solitary newcomers and invite them into their homes and families, thus quite unconsciously making converts to the custom.

Which is actually definitely habit-forming. Assuming we can fight through the traffic, which is worse before Thanksgiving than at any other time of the year, we will eat our turkey at a farm in the hills or north-western Connecticut 100 miles from New York. Our hosts are Canadian citizens now living in America. In Canada, Thanksgiving is celebrated in October, partly because the Canadian winter dictates an earlier harvest and partly because of a characteristic Canadian desire to put a distinctive twist on their North American identity. Our friends' response to this scheduling disagreement marks them out, regardless of their national origin, as among nature's Americans: they simply observe two Thanksgivings.

Actually, two Thanksgivings a year underestimates the feeling of many immigrants. While thinking about this column I walked out of my apartment, nodded to the Cuban refugee caretaker, glanced at the news stand run by Indian refugees from Burmese socialism, inspected a new restaurant just started by Polish refugees and finally ate at another run by gentle refugees from Tibet.

It should never be forgotten that underlying the institutionalized chaos of American politics are a lot of people who are extremely glad to be here.

The author is a senior editor of *Forbes Magazine*.

## Mrs Thatcher's warning signal

delegation difficult. Their commitment to the task in hand may well be to the benefit of the organization they are running, but this benefit is bought only at the cost of emotional wear and tear.

Lack of sleep is one of the first signs that the level of stress has become too great. People who sleep less than six hours a night are more likely to suffer from stress-related disease; it has never been adequately shown if this is because tense people sleep badly or if those who pack too much into their day place an unacceptable burden on their bodies.

Nobody likes to fight on two fronts but politicians are always doing just that, preserving their own position in the party or government and supporting it against the opposition. Further, prime ministers now have to fight Britain's case in the EEC.

Even worse than the political stress is having problems superimposed on it from the home. It is noticeable that Mrs Thatcher

showed signs of excessive tiredness at the Palace on Tuesday after a week's punishing schedule, including overseas travel, and having to withstand one of the periodic and unjustified attacks on the business life of her son.

Feeling faint is a very imprecise complaint so that doctors always have to make certain just what patients mean by it. To some it means that they feel dizzy and that the world is rotating, rather like a bed after they have been drinking too much; to others that they have become stumbling and clumsy; but to most people it is a feeling of lightheadedness — other people seem far away, the sense of hearing may be altered, the knees feel weak, and they are conscious that they have gone pale and are sweating.

Fainting always needs careful investigation, including heart studies, to make certain that there is no physical cause for any temporary failure of the blood supply to the brain. Usually,

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## COURT AND SOCIAL

### COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
November 27: The Prince Edward, Patron of the Cambridge Youth Theatre, this morning visited Domino Printing Sciences (Chairman, Mr Graeme S. Minto) at Bar Hill, Cambridge.

His Royal Highness was later entertained at luncheon by Domino in aid of the Cambridge Youth Theatre at Swynford Paddock, Six Mile Bottom.

The Prince Edward, Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Project '87, this evening attended a dinner and debate at the Cambridge Union Society.

Captain James Fraser was in attendance.

The Princess Royal this morning opened Cuninghame House (Marion, Mrs P. Moody, an Abbeyfield Extra Care Home, North West, near Epping).

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Essex (Admiral Sir Andrew Lewis), the Chairman, Abbeyfield Epping Society (Miss G. Baum).

Afterwards The Princess Royal opened a new ward block at the District General Hospital, Broomfield, near Chelmsford, where Her Royal Highness was received by the Chairman, Mid-Essex District Health Authority (Dame Elizabeth Coker).

The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, later visited Chatterbox Ltd, Millers Road, Sudbury.

Her Royal Highness was received by Colonel Cecil Wells (Deputy Lieutenant of Suffolk) and Mr and Mrs D. Porteous-Baker (Managing Director and Chairman of the Company respectively).

The Princess Royal this afternoon opened the new Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Unit, the Wayland Amputee and Rehabilitation Centre, Norwich.

Her Royal Highness was received by Major Derek Allhusen (Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk) and the acting Chairman, Norfolk Health Authority (Mrs E. Allen).

The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, later visited Cuninghame House (Marion, Mrs P. Moody, an Abbeyfield Extra Care Home, North West, near Epping).

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Lady Elizabeth Cavendish.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this morning visited the St Mary's Centre, Lichfield. In the afternoon Her Royal Highness visited the Cathedral and was later present at a Reception to mark the Friends' 50th Anniversary at Lichfield Cathedral School, Staffordshire.

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## Shirley Lancaster

# The mystic as a model for life

Ask someone to describe a mystic and you are more likely to hear of a gurus meditating on a mountain top than Dag Hammarskjöld, the former Secretary of the United Nations - or Simone Weil, philosopher and author of *The Need for Roots*.

For mysticism, perhaps because it evokes the words mystery and mystification, is now almost synonymous with otherworldliness, irrational thinking or plain rubbish.

Nor does it help that mystical experience is difficult to put into words. Resorting to metaphor, Meister Eckhart writes: "I see God with the same eyes as he sees me". The Flemish contemplative, John Ruysbroeck: "Mark me like the tulip with thine own streaks", which is probably asking for trouble.

Such words of arrogant assurance, rather than reverent humility, certainly verge upon blasphemy in the eyes of the church. Take Angelus Silesius's comment: "The soul which is a virgin and receives nothing save God, can become God-pregnant as often as it wants".

Yet it is the mystic, in all ages and in all religious traditions, who provides the raw materials of theology in claiming to know God in the same way that we know a close friend or spouse: we are intimately connected with them.

And as the scientist and mystic, Teilhard de Chardin, protests: "The mystic is not, as some accuse him or her, a renegade deserter, who does not share the earth's agonies or its raptures". By first surrendering the ego to find union with God, the mystic, paradoxically, is more free to live the active life to the full. St Augustine, Catherine of Genoa, Nicholas of Cusa, Teresa of Avila and Teilhard de Chardin himself, all became centres of creative energy and power in the world.

But if the mystic can attain the heights of spiritual contemplation, keeping one foot rooted in this world, his achievement is rare.

In *The Doors of Perception*, Aldous Huxley tried to show that hallucina-

genic drugs, such as mescaline, can produce comparable states of being. Acting as a release button on the five senses and thought processes, they induce a range of characteristic states: a feeling of unity or oneness, a sense of the sacred, ineffability. Even die-hard atheists have found such words as eternity or God imbued with new meaning.

Huxley was convinced this return-ticker to a new form of consciousness transforms our understanding of the inner world and human potential. But its affinity with mystical experience by no means equates the two.

As Alan Watts remarked, the use of drugs corresponds "almost exactly to the theological concept of a sacrament or means of grace - an unmerited gift of spiritual power whose lasting effects depends upon the use made of it in subsequent action". It is the application of these insights which alone brings about a permanent change in the individual.

Yet Huxley observed how mescaline hinders reconciling a "cleansed" perception with the practicalities of life. He confides that he now knows contemplation at its height, but not in its fullness. "Mescaline opens up the way of Mary, but shuts the door on that of Martha. It gives access to a contemplation that is incompatible with action, with the very thought of action."

The most austere mountaineers of the spiritual life agree that the development of our individual powers and potentials is only possible by continuous action, never by sheer contemplation or receptivity. For Spinoza, Goethe, Hegel and Marx, too, man is alive only so far as he grasps the world outside of himself, in the act of expressing his own specific human powers.

Experimenting with drugs today, from glue-sniffing to heroin, seems to be more about escaping reality than grasping it. A quick release from anxiety, inhibition, fear or boredom is welcome enough. But as every addict knows, these "highs" are as temporary and

rootless as the flower-power hopes of the 1960s.

Yet many people have known spontaneous, transcendent experiences without such help. Abraham Maslow, an American psychologist renowned for studying the "healthy half" of psychology (joy, serenity or ecstasy rather than neurosis), identified what he called "peak experiences" as moments of highest happiness and fulfillment. For example, the experience of parenthood or nature, the act of creation and aesthetic perception, therapeutic or intellectual insight and certain forms of athletic excellence.

Maslow found by living in harmony with the truth of our own being we achieve our most complete sense of selfhood: and simultaneously, a transcendence of the self. As in the examples above, we feel literally at the peak of our powers. We do things wholeheartedly, without doubts or hesitations. Everything clicks into place. Great athletes, artists, leaders and executives were shown to demonstrate this quality of behaviour when functioning at their best.

"Every age but ours has its model", says Maslow, "the hero, the gentleman, the knight, the mystic". The mystic is perhaps our model for what human consciousness has yet to achieve. For Meister Eckhart that divine spark, which seeks union with God, is present in us all.

But the mystic also reminds us, alongside Maslow's model of the Self-Realiser, that it is in committing ourselves to life - spending ourselves passionately and unreservedly in the fulfilment of an authentic life, that we experience those peaks that truly enrich and transform our personalities.

Here lies the abundant life we are called to share. And once the church needs to share more convincingly when the glue-bottle, pill and syringe have become such a poor and tragic substitute.

The writer is an Anglican laywoman.

## OBITUARY

### CANON J. R. FOX

Priest who bridged the gulfs

Canon John Roger Fox, MC, who died in Switzerland on November 24, at the age of 90, was an ecumenically-minded Roman Catholic priest who, for the most part, practised his faith overseas where he (and many like him) found the climate to be more ecumenically accommodating.

He was born at Honiton, Devon, on November 26, 1896, the son of an Anglican cleric. He went to Lancing College, and in 1915 joined the Seaforth Highlanders. He survived the Battle of the Somme, was wounded twice (though not seriously), and was awarded the Military Cross and Bar.

After the war he went to New College, Oxford, and was ordained into the Church of England in 1923. Like many of his generation, Fox was deeply unsettled by his war experiences.

In addition, his inclinations had, for some years, been towards the Church of Rome, and just one year after his ordination he was received into its fold, at Buckfast Abbey. From there he went to Switzerland and Fribourg University; and in the spring of 1933 he was ordained into the Roman priesthood, by which time he had become a member of the Order of St Augustine.

He was sent, first, to the European High School at Bangalore, then to a mission at Pedong, in Nepal. He was in charge of a little school there and learned to speak Nepalese; and he returned many years later to meet his now grown up charges.

By 1941 he was in Bombay as a chaplain to merchant seamen, and working hand in hand with the Anglican Missions to Seamen - then, as now, a more common occurrence in foreign parts than in England. He was then sent to Singapore where he tackled a similar job and a good deal besides, coping with returning prisoners of war. It was a busy and happy time.

A vignette from these days was later recalled by the author Graham Greene in his foreword to Fox's autobiography, *Bridging the Gulf*. Greene recounted how he enlisted Father Fox's help for a young Chinese whose wife had been refused a visa to live with her husband in Singapore. "I telephoned at once to Father Fox. 'Will you come with me in the morning and storm the police station?' He took the request as calmly and naturally as if it had been an invitation to lunch".

An obstinate sentry was side-stepped, and after some argument with an unpleasant sergeant, the young bride got her visa. The priest was later unsuccessful, however, in getting Greene a visa to the United States.

Fox returned to the order's abbey in Switzerland, at St Maurice, where, apart from a year in the mid-1950s as a port chaplain in London, he remained for the rest of his days, guiding visitors around the abbey's many treasures.

A few years ago he suffered a stroke which left him very poorly and from which he never fully recovered.

### MR JOHN MACEY

Mr John (Jack) Macey, CBE, who died on November 20, at the age of 80, was a man whose life's work was given over to housing. In this field he rose to high office, both in Birmingham and in London, where he was Director of Housing at County Hall.

John Percival Macey was born on December 3, 1906, and was educated at Vardean Grammar School, Brighton. He joined the old London County Council in 1926, working in the education department. But his true vocation lay in housing, and he channelled his interests in that direction, starting off as a rent collector.

A Territorial, he was called up at the outbreak of war and joined the Royal Engineers, serving in Burma and rising to the rank of major.

After the war he resumed his work at the LCC, and by 1948 he was a principal assistant in the housing department. Then, in 1951, he moved to Birmingham as deputy housing manager and was faced with a chronic housing need.

Macey returned to County Hall in 1964, this time as director of housing, and his post he retained until his retirement seven years later.

He was far from idle in retirement. He put his wide experience to good use with the Peabody Trust, whose treasurer he was from 1974 to 1981, and as chairman of the Samuel Lewis Housing Trust from 1974 until just a few years ago. Even at home, where he made his home, he was active in the local church and as a trustee of a retirement home. He was also three times president of the Institute of Housing.

Jack Macey had a strength of character which won others to him. He was understanding, good with his staff, and did not expect others to do what he was not prepared to do himself. He remained active until the end.

He published a number of books, among them *Macey on the Housing Finance Act* and *The Housing Act*. His wife, Jill, whom he married in 1931, survives him with their son and daughter.

### SIR JOHN COLVILLE

Mr Michael Richardson writes: You touched briefly in your obituary (November 21) on Jack Colville's RAF service. He arrived in my squadron in 1943 with orders from above that Pilot Officer Colville was to become an operational pilot, but "for heaven's sake don't let him get shot down". At a time of heavy losses this was not an easy task.

The thought that Jack, with his encyclopaedic knowledge of the war effort, might become a POW, was a constant nightmare.

By D-Day in his second spell with 168 Squadron, he had become an eager and competent fighter pilot, in spite of the major handicap of poor eyesight. He wore a very early variety of contact lenses which gave him considerable discomfort after two or three hours of flying.

We were in no doubt about the extent of his connections with the Establishment.

In a squadron largely officered by forthright Australians and New Zealanders he was widely admired for his courage and determination when it would have been simpler to have remained in Whitehall.

### DR EDGAR BERMAN

Dr Edgar Berman, American surgeon and writer, died on November 25. He was 72.

He won himself few female admirers for his utterance that women, because of their "raging hormonal imbalances, were unfit for leadership. 'The women all hate me,' he later observed.

Berman was a medical consultant to the State Department and the White House; while *Hubert - The Triumph and Tragedy of the Humphrey* (1979) recalled his time as physician and confidant to the Vice-President.

His other books included *The Unchanging Woman*, *The Politician*, *Primeval: From Aeneas to the White House*, *The Solid Gold Steaks*, and *The Complex Chauvinist*.

During the 1950s Berman inserted the first plastic oesophagus in a human being; and in 1957 he was involved in what is believed to have been the first successful heart transplant on a dog.

The infant son of Mr and Mrs James Charles Gordon was christened Andrew Charles by Canon Coronado Grima, parish priest of St Joseph's Parish, Gibraltar, in the Chapel of our Lady of Lourdes in the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St Mary the Crowned, Gibraltar, on Saturday, November 28, 1987. The godparents are Mr Anthony J.P. Lombard and Mrs Albert Langston.

Church services, Archaeology, Sky at Night and personal announcements appear on page 37.

### Birthdays

TODAY: Professor G.S.G. Beveridge, vice-chancellor, Queen's University of Belfast, 54; Vice-Chancellor Sir David Brown, 60; Mr Geoffrey Clarke, artist and sculptor, 63; Lord Justice Croom-Johnson, 73; Mr F.C.H. du Preez, rugby player, 52; Mr Terence Frisby, playwright, actor and producer, 55; Sir Ronald Gibson, former chairman of council, BMA, 78; Mr Keith Miller, cricketer, 62; Lieutenant-General Sir David Mostyn, 59; Miss Dervla Murphy, author, 56; the Right Rev Patrick Rodin, former Bishop of Oxford, 67; Mr H.S. Tait, chairman, London Commodity Exchange Company, 36; Major-General R.E. Urquhart, 86.

TOMORROW: Professor Sir Ivor Batchelor, psychiatrist, 71; Mr George Canadale, author, 78; Sir Eric Drake, former chairman, B.P. 77; Professor Sir Michael Howard, historian, 63; Sir Edward Hulton, magazine publisher, 81; Professor Frank Kermode, former professor of English literature, 68; Mr Geoffrey Moorhouse, writer, 36; Professor Edith Penrose, economic consultant, 73; Lady (Leslie) Porter, Leader of Westminster Council, 57; Mr Toby Robertson, theatre, opera and television director, 59; Sir James Scott-Hopkins, MEP, 66; Sir David Steel, chairman, The Wellcome Trust, 71; Sir John Templeton, financial analyst, 75; Sir Peter Tennant, former director-general, British National Export Council, 77; Mr Alan Lee Williams, Warden, Tynbee Hall, 57.

The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mr and Mrs W.H. Meakin, Par Cowley Farm, Little Haywood, Staffordshire, and Anna, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Martin, Pendock, Tarnworth-in-Arden, Warwickshire.

The engagement is announced between Brian Malcolm, elder son of Mr and Mrs S. Royston of Harrogate, and Michelle Annette, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Karker, of London.

The engagement is announced between Roy, son of Mr and Mrs D.J. Thomas, of 23 Brynhyfryd, Glyn Neath, West Glamorgan, and Elissa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Ren, of 8 Y-Parc, Groes-faen, Pontyfun, Mid Glamorgan.

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### Elizabethan honour

Merseyside-born actress Glenda Jackson wore an Elizabethan costume when she returned home to receive an honorary fellowship from Liverpool Polytechnic yesterday. The robes were designed by students at the C. F. Mott campus in Prescott to commemorate her television role as Elizabeth I some years ago.

### Latest wills

Sir Aubrey Ernest Ward, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire, veterinary surgeon and wartime mayor of Slough, left estate valued at £60,112 net.

Mr Arthur George Dunn, of Epsom, Surrey, left estate valued at £368,200 net. After bequests totalling £20,000, he left the residue to the National Trust.

Mr Richard Peter Gardener, of Deal, Kent, left estate valued at £822,446 net. He left his estate mostly to his children.

Mr Peter Stanley May, of Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £686,315 net.

Dr Douglas Webster, of Weston sub Edge, Gloucestershire, Canon Residentiary of St Paul's Cathedral 1969-84, President for the first 13 years and Chancellor 1982-84, and education secretary of the Church Missionary Society 1953-61, left estate valued at £180,896 net.

### Church news

The Rev David Thomas, formerly Vicar of St Luke's, Toowomba, Queensland, Australia, has been appointed residentiary Canon of Worcester Cathedral.

The Dean of Exeter gave an address and the Rev John Easton led the prayers. The Bishop of Exeter and Prebendary John Gaskell were robed and in the Choir.

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### Forthcoming marriages

Mr G. Carp and Miss S. Salem. The engagement is announced between Gary, second son of the late Jack Carp, of Didsbury, Manchester, and of Mrs E. Bell, of Kingsbury, London, and Belinda, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Salem, of Wilmow, Cheshire.

Mr A. Chamberlain and Miss D. Rosborough. The engagement is announced between Arthur, son of the late Mr and Mrs Arthur Chamberlain, of Edgaston, Birmingham, and Dominique, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Rosborough, of 26 Avenue Krieg, Geneva, Switzerland.

Mr W.H. Creak and Miss C.M.C. Reeves. The engagement is announced between William Henry, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Creak, of Parsloes Hillcock, Princes Risborough, and Catherine Mary Claire, daughter of Captain Peter Reeves, Royal Navy, and Mrs Reeves, of Bath, Avon.

Mr H.R. Dunn and Miss F.E. Cook. The engagement is announced between Harold Robert, son of Mr and Mrs H.R. Dunn, of Highgate, London, and Fiona Elizabeth Cook, of Beasley Heath, Kent.

### Service dinners

Anchoret. Surgeon Captain A.W. Hagger presided at the annual ladies night dinner of the Anchoret held last night at the Cafe Royal. Judge Felix Waley, C.J. Judge Advocate of the Fleet, and Mrs Waley were the principal guests.

Not Under Command. Captain John W. Hagger, Commander in Chief Naval Home Command, was the guest of honour at the annual supper of the Not Under Command Club held last night in HMS Royal Arthur. The guests at K.N. Symons, chairman, presided.

Commando Gunners. The biennial Commando Gunners Officers' reunion dinner was held last night at the RA Mess Woolwich. The Colonel Commandant, Major-General A.G.E. Stewart-Cox, and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A.L. Moorthy, of 29 Commando Regiment RA, welcomed the guests. The principal guests were Brigadier R.J. Ross, Commander 3rd Commando Brigade RM, and Brigadier R.S. Mountford.

The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Major-General B.C. Webster, Deputy Colonel of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (City of London), presided at the London area dinner of the regiment held last night at Fusilier House, Balham.

Service reception. The Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire and the Chairman of Stroud District Council were among the guests at a reception held at RAF Quedgeley yesterday evening.

Group Captain J.B. Ashall, Station Commander, and Squadron Leader C.J. Paisley, FMC, and their ladies, received the guests.

Gold medal. The Institution of Mechanical Engineers' Tribology gold medal for 1987 has been won by Professor Fujio Hirano, formerly President of Osaka National College of Technology, Japan.

### Science report

## Using an electrical field to repair nerve cells

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The preliminary results of a remarkable piece of research in the United States suggests that it might be possible one day to repair damage to nerve cells that at present is regarded as irreversible. The scientists are investigating types of injury to the spinal cord that cause paralysis.

They have been encouraged by some success in the laboratory with the use of a weak electrical field that appears to stimulate nerve growth in guinea pigs.

A report of the work by scientists at Purdue University, in West Lafayette, Indiana, stresses that the research is still a long way from providing a cure for people paralysed by injuries.

But they plan further experiments in animals in the

hopes they can some day transfer them to humans.

Dr Richard Borgens, director of the school's Centre for







## Books for Christmas

Continued from page 13

## FRANCES BISSELL

Honey from a Weed by Patience Gray (Prospect Books, £17.50, Paperback, £8.95) remains the book I have enjoyed most this year. I move it occasionally from its permanent bedside spot to the rocking chair by the window on a cold grey afternoon, and I am transported by Patience Gray's loving and perceptive account of "fasting and feasting in Tuscany, Catalonia, the Cyclades and Apulia". Of course the recipes work.

## ANNE BARNES

This year's most enjoyable paperback must include Vikram Seth's *The Golden Gate* (Faber, £3.95). It is funny and sad about all our lives, and all in rhyming couplets. Then, perhaps, Emma Tennant's *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (Faber, £2.95), which brings back the Fifties with an 18th-century gloss, cleverly twisting the time warp. Finally, *The Secret Self* (Dent, £4.95), a collection of short stories by women writers — Edith Wharton to Fay Weldon — which excite, illuminate, explain and even soothe. Prop it up against the turkey.

## TOM HUTCHINSON

Proof that there is life after death came from Old Father L. Ron Hubbard, founding father of Scientology, with his series of "Mission Earth": *Fortune of Fear* (New Era Publications, £10.95) — back to his slam-bang pulp days before he embarked on a bizarre career so fascinatingly recounted in biographer Russell Miller's tale. Greg Bear's *The Forge of God* (Gollancz, £11.95) was epic SF at its mind-extending best. But the haunting treat was to re-read David Lindsay's *A Voyage to Arcturus* (Alison & Busby, £3.95), republished in paperback after 22 years. A Blake-like vision of evil to which the description "genius" applies.

## RICHARD WILLIAMS

The crucible of this century's popular music is the American South, where rednecks and the children of slaves engaged in uneasy and often clandestine cultural dialogue. In *Say It One Time for the Broken Hearted* (Fonana, £4.95), Barney Hoskyns examines the roots that nurtured Elvis Presley and Ray Charles — and the composer of "Johnny B. Goode", who

tells, in the unghosted and curiously roccoco formulations of Chuck Berry: *The Autobiography* (Faber, £9.95), how he came to write the songs about having fun with girls and cars (preferably simultaneously) that set the agenda for rock 'n' roll. *Jazz: The Essential Companion* (Grafton, £17.95) by Ian Carr, Digby Fairweather and Brian Priestley is a valuable and readable new guide.

## LIZ SMITH

The fashion world has been en fête all year from the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of Dior's New Look in 1947 to the birth of couture's newest star, Lacroix, who neatly shares not simply the first name of the century's most famous revolutionary in style, Christian Dior, but his passion for elegance and an extravagant line. Françoise Giroud's sumptuous dossier *Dior* (Thames & Hudson, £75) luxuriates in the *couture ensemble* from the secrets of its boned foundation and silken lining to the outside showy effect. Kennedy Fraser's *Scenes From The Fashionable World* (Affected, £30.95) is the second anthology of her New Yorker observations about people, parties, and the overblown pizzazz of the fashion business.

## GILLIAN GREENWOOD

I enjoyed *The Short Stories* by Muriel Spark (*The Bodley Head*, £12.95) for their black humour and quirky, sharp observations; their mingling of the fanciful and the domestic. Marguerite Yourcenar's *Two Lives and a Dream* (Aidan Ellis, £9.95) offers an alternative landscape, historical and fabulous, in which to enjoy her rich imagination and thought. Arthur Miller's autobiography, *Time Beings* (Methuen, £17.95) is my favourite book of the year: a wise, humorous, reflective book displaying an extraordinary self-knowledge.

## JOHN NICHOLSON

For the second year running the Booker boys and girls got it right. The Lively Appreciation Society salutes them, because Moon Tiger (*André Deutsch*, £9.95) took the author into uncharted emotional depths. She did not flounder. Another old favourite waddled across a sea of sand. The heroine of Bernice Rubens's *Our Father* (*Hamish Hamilton*, £9.95) bumped into God in the Sahara. Then brought Him back to Surbiton — with delicious results. Scott Turow's *Presumed Innocent* (Bloomsbury, £12.95) left a nastier taste in the mouth. But it made a clever and compulsive flagship for this year's most completely rejuvenated genre — the American crime novel.

## NICHOLAS SHAKESPEARE

The *Songlines* by Bruce Chatwin (*Cape*, £10.95) is the most stimulating, original, and distinctive book I have read this year. Disguised seductively as fiction, it is the result of a lifetime on the hoof — observing, reading, theorizing. Chatwin's premise is that the Aborigines lay claim to their territory by singing it in the way that birds do. Purporting to describe a journey through Australia in search of these invisible tracks, it is a novel that — rare for an English author — takes on practically everything under the desert sun. The only novels I remotely enjoyed as much were Toni Morrison's *Beloved* (*Chatto & Windus*, £11.95) and the marvellous Mary Wesley's *Not That Sort of Girl* (Macmillan £9.95).

## MARCEL BERLINS

Reginald Hill has for a long time been one of our best traditional crime writers, but in *Child's Play* (Collins, £8.95), featuring his usual police duo Dalziel and Pascoe, he has topped even his own high standards of characterization and plotting. Scott Turow's complex American cop and court room drama *Presumed Innocent* (Bloomsbury, £12.95) is tight, clever, well written, and the best of its kind for years. Most enjoyable debut was Joan Smith's *A Masculine Ending* (Faber, £9.95), which combines humour, a good story, erudition, and, in Lorena Lawson, a sparky academic female sleuth who should go far.

## TOM CLARKE

Sports books used to fall into four categories: reference, auto/biographical, reportage, instructional. Now there is much activity in a newish breed: the showpiece volume for the sports library or the clubhouse table — shiny, expensive, sometimes a themeless self-indulgence. *Golf: The History of an Obsession*, by David Stirk (Phaidon, £25) has the gloss and price. It also has scholarship, style and love, in the writing, in the selection of pictures (from Italy in 1624 to Turnberry in the 1980s), and in the presentation.



Ida Rubinstein (whose feet are killing her) by James Abbe, 1921, from *The Fugitive Gesture*, by William A. Ewing (Thames & Hudson, £25). Catching dance on film is like fishing for salmon with bare hands. A master of dance-photography publishes 200 duotone dance plates from Nijinsky to Astaire

## Jokes to choke a Greek god

## PETER JONES HUMOUR

Readers of *The Times*, soaked as they are (at least for the moment) in a Classical education, will recall readily the trick that Prometheus played on Zeus to ensure that, when the Greeks sacrificed, the inedible parts would be burnt in honour of the gods while humans received the juicy bits. Not that, those Greeks. I should therefore announce that I, too, have adopted old Greek customs and made a significant holocaust to Hermes, god of jokes. To him, the rubbish: all books about condoms, sex, marriage and private parts; all books illustrating hundreds of ways of doing things; all joke collections, especially those gathered by MPs; all disaster books; every book about golf; all cartoon collections, except Larry's look at umpires, *Orzatz* (Robson Books, £3.95).

Since, to judge by the sheer tonnage of these desperate jaw-breakers, the market for them must be stupendous, there is a fortune (and the blessing of every Christmas reviewer) awaiting the publisher who compresses them into one terrifying composite volume, illustrated by Fluck and Law in co-operation with *Punch* and entitled, let us say, *101 Uses of Jokes about Golf during a Great Private Parts Disaster in the House of Commons* (ed. R. Hattersley).

While Hermes, therefore, chokes over that lot (and serve him right), we

shall address ourselves to the subtlest and most exquisite cuts from this year's banquet of humour.

*The World Encyclopedia of Lies and Utter Fibs* by Karl Shaw (Buchan & Enright, £4.95), a book which at first glance I was determined to hate, turned out to be a magnificent spoof on all those grudgingly puerile trivia quiz-games. Did you know, for example, that Sino Fein, translated literally, means jacket potato? That the staple diet of the Sudan is cheese? That Mao Tse Tung was once a pools collector for Vernons?

It's about time that you did, especially with Mr Baker's wonderful tests for seven-year-olds on the horizon. *French Widow in Every Room* by Dennis Winston (Unwin, £3.95) trends familiar ground, but still produces miracles of English from the continuing. There are the usual menu howlers (Bowels in Spit, Utmost of Chicken as Hungarian, Geaps of Lamp Greece with Gumpoes) and a truly heroic German camp-site notice: "What offers the civilization beside the nature? The animals let see in the fresh morning — and cool evening hours. Out the Naab-waves soap gasp for breath pines and eels." Sounds like paradise to me.

Constructing their narrative entirely around the illustrations available in Whiteley's Catalogue (Harrods refused the use of theirs), E.V. Lucas and George Morrow in

*What a Life* (Collins, £5.95, first published 1911) trace the story of an English aristocrat from birth to baronetcy. The earnest solemnity of tone and the manic logic of a narrative derived entirely from situations suggested by an Edwardian sales-catalogue have produced a tiny masterpiece.

But essays are surely the medium of humour through which we British most often hit the bull through the back of the net for an eagle 147. Frank Keating's *Gents and Players* (Robson Books, £4.95) offers one paradigm of the genre, somewhat loosely structured but bursting with good stories. I especially enjoyed the saga of Jack Crapp's boots. Bought for five guineas in 1936, they served him for 21 years as a player and 22 as umpire. When Keating asked to see them, Crapp said he had loaned them to the Scouts: "See the boots Jack Crapp wore — 5p".

Alice Thomas Ellis carries on in *More Home Life* (Duckworth, £9.95) where she left off in *Home Life*. Her suggestion that clergymen could improve attendances at church by painting their noses gold seems to me an important breakthrough in the Church's understanding of the needs of wider Society.

Patrick Campbell was one of the finest exponents of the humorous essay. He wrote like a dream and has no superior in the art of exquisitely urbane self-mockery. The Campbell

*Companion*, edited by Ulick O'Connor (Pavilion Books, £12.95), contains 30 of his best essays, and a magnificently funny collection they make. Here Campbell, a renowned stunter, and his similarly hand-capped friend Theodore (who would whistle his way out of the clump) are under strictest orders from Mrs Gilbert to utter not a peep during an important lunch. Suddenly, the conversation dries up. Obviously, it will never start again. Campbell steps in:

I set myself to say, "I went bathing yesterday, and the water was as warm as toast." I became locked at once. My head turned slowly to the left, the rich blood already pounding into my face. I met the terrified gaze of the diplomat's wife, tried to smile at her, emitted three "ahah ahah ahah" instead, and then found myself centred upon Theodore, immediately opposite me. To my absolute consternation I saw that he was busy, too. The fool had thrown himself into speech as well, and was now whistling away in short, piercing trills, with his eyes clamped firmly shut. My head ground round to the right. "I awah awah awah." I said to the brisk matron, and then my head started its journey back again. I caught a glimpse of Mrs Gilbert out of the corner of my eye. Her lips were moving in prayer. I had time to think that she was lucky to have them moving at all, when I became based upon Theodore once more. He must have played the whole of "The Bluebells of Scotland" by this time, but he was as far away as ever from saying anything.

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## Passing the Kubla Khan test

## TRAVEL

Two books by young writers tellers in their twenties give us a near to this simply through their freshness and enthusiasm. *Ram Ram India* (Collins £2.95) by Alex Thomson and Nick Souter is a bisterous, tandem account of a wild bicycle ride down the entire length of the subcontinent, from Kashmir to the Cape, made in the winter of 1984-5. It is a "road" book, built of an abacus of colourful encounters strung along their route — a tiger, a tortoise, a tumbling Sadhu, a Scottish doctor performing operations by torchlight. The tone is wide-eyed and upbeat. ("Ram ram" is the Hindu equivalent of "Cheers"), and Thomson, the narrator, makes revealing comic use of his fat, philosophical partner Rossiter. Their energy and astonishment make a captivating trip.

The more promising and roman

Murphy has, in her time, been

Wilfred Thesiger's autobiography, *Want Visions of a Nomad* (Collins, £20), his beautiful collection of photographs selected from 65 albums and a lifetime's exploring.

Nearer home, Richard Lamb's *The Failure of Eden Government* (Sidgwick Jackson, £16.95) is the

and Thorneycroft, Ma  
and Hailsham all sailed  
the highest offices,

## Crisis and cant

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and Thorneycroft, Ma  
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the highest offices,

ground of his own, subsequent  
volumes will be more  
revealing.

Jane Roberts's book *Royal Artists* (Grafton, £17.95) con-

She acted as a courier to

She edited a ghost book

her than through  
le sometimes lies  
with folds of sheet  
m his mouth like

that her  
credible  
word.

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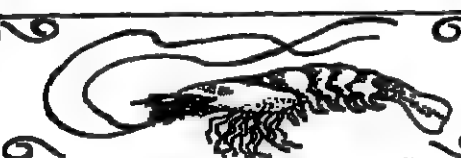
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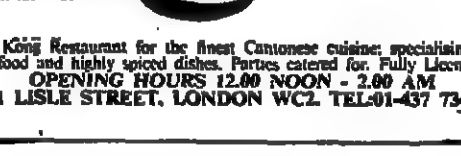
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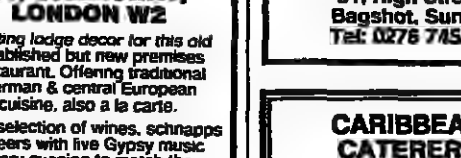
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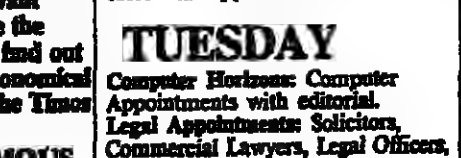
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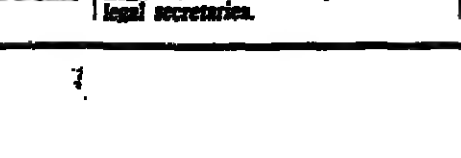
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# THE TIMES COOK

Readers' requests for another fatless Christmas pudding have persuaded Frances Bissell to devise a four-flavour recipe

## Variation on a pudding theme

A number of readers' letters have caused me to postpone what I had planned to write about this week. It seems that the Christmas pudding is alive and well. Since tomorrow is Advent Sunday, the start of the Christmas season, it is an appropriate time to make the pudding if you have not already done so, and if, indeed, you are planning to make one. I wasn't, but then your requests for the Times fatless Christmas pudding recipe prompted me to have a go.

It is not laziness that keeps me from making them, but those rich, solid, fruity concoctions like puddings, mince and Christmas cakes have always been rather overwhelming to me, not just in the length of time they take to prepare but in their strong flavours and textures. Sometimes I think there are too many flavours fighting for the palate's attention and for that reason, I have worked out a pudding recipe that sticks to just four main flavour themes, muscat, in the raisins and the wine, apricots, oranges and almonds.

Candied peel is one of those things that often sit around in the store cupboard from one year's end to the next. I have used it with altogether and used marmalade instead. I have used dried apricots instead of glacé cherries because they are sweet with their own natural sugar, rather than with added glucose, and they are not artificially coloured. The marmalade, apricots and crumbled macaroons provide all the sugar the pudding needs. The macaroons add another light touch to the texture, as do the breadcrumbs.

A pudding made with breadcrumbs is lighter than a flour-based one, but even so it is still very dense, and I am not at all sure that re-heating it on Christmas day in the microwave is a good idea. I would follow the traditional method, and steam it for a couple of hours. If you use wholemeal breadcrumbs, as I have done, they make a rather heavy pudding, and there is no fat in it. I think a couple of tablespoons of olive oil stirred in before steaming would do no harm. Do bear in mind that as long as you keep the proportions about the same, you can experiment



with different dried fruits. If an orange and almond theme does not appeal to you, change it for one of lemon and walnuts. Or lime and hazelnuts. It is a surprisingly versatile recipe.

But after this, I do not intend to make Christmas cake. My ideal cake for the holiday period, and I know I shall not be popular with the multiple food stores who, it must be said, have really pulled out all the stops this year with truly luxurious Christmas cakes, is the Italian "panettone", a light, tasty sponge with just a little dried and candied fruit in it. They are to be found hanging in their distinctive hat boxes in food shops all over Italy. Indeed, they have been available here from good Italian food shops for many years. Now Marks and Spencer have imported them under their own label, costing £3.50 each (a "panettone" and a dove-shaped cake called a "colomba" which has a macaroon and almond topping).

The best mince pies I've eaten for a long time are Joscelyn Dimbleby's. If I make any this Christmas, it will be to her recipe, to be

found, along with many other seasonal goodies, in *The Joscelyn Dimbleby Christmas Book* from Sainsbury's. It is so simple yet brilliant, a sweetened pastry into which you grate orange zest, and stir in freshly squeezed orange juice to bind it, instead of water or egg. Before she puts the pastry lid on, she tops the mince with a little cream cheese mixture. Wonderful! Christmas Pudding Serves 8 to 10

8oz/230g fresh wholemeal breadcrumbs  
8oz/230g roughly chopped muscat raisins  
8oz/230g sultanas  
8oz/230g roughly chopped dried apricots  
2oz/60g crumbled almond macaroons or Italian amaretti  
2oz/60g chopped almonds  
1oz/30g ground or flaked almonds  
1 peeled and grated apple  
1 tsp grated orange zest  
1 tsp ground cinnamon  
1 tsp ground mace  
1 tsp ground cardamom  
1/2 tsp ground cloves  
1/2 tsp ground allspice

2 tsp orange marmalade or candied orange peel  
juice of 1 small orange  
4 size 3 eggs  
1 miniature bottle brandy  
1/2pt/140ml fortified muscat wine, port, marsala or oloroso sherry

Put all the dry ingredients in a large bowl and mix thoroughly, either with a large wooden spoon or your hands. Put the marmalade, orange juice, eggs, brandy and wine in another large bowl or in a blender or food processor, and beat until well blended and frothy. Pour the liquid over the dry ingredients. Mix again until the mixture is moist. Cover and let it stand for a couple of hours at least and, if possible, overnight to let the spice flavours develop. Oil or butter the pudding basin or basins (the mixture fills a 3pt/1.75l basin) and spoon in the mixture. As the pudding contains no raw flour, it is not going to expand very much during cooking, and you can fill the mixture to within 1in/2.5cm of the rim. Take a large, square greaseproof paper, oil or butter it, and tie it over the top of the pudding basin with string.

Place the basin in a saucepan, standing it on a long triple strip of foil to help you lift the hot basin out of the saucepan once cooked. Pour in boiling water to reach

halfway up the pudding basin, cover the saucepan and bring it back to the boil. Lower the heat, keep water at a steady simmer, and steam the pudding for five hours. Make sure the water is kept topped up. When the pudding is cooked, remove it from the pudding basin, allow it to go completely cold before wrapping it in fresh greaseproof paper and foil.

1/2pt/140ml game stock and 1/2pt/140ml stout or 1/2pt/280ml stout  
salt and pepper

Peel and trim the onions and celery, cut the peeled celeriac into 1in/2.5cm dice if you are using it; the celery should be sliced no more than 1in/2.5cm thick.

Heat the olive oil in a heavy based pan. Cut the venison into 1in/2.5cm cubes. Fry the vegetables until just beginning to colour lightly. Add the venison and herbs. Seal the meat all over. Moisten the flour with a little of the liquid, and stir it into the rest of the stock/stout. Add this all to the pan, and bring to simmering point. Season to taste, and remove from the heat. Leave the meat to cool.

Grease the pudding basin. Roll out three-quarters of the pastry, and use this to line the pudding basin. Spoon in the cooled meat mixture. Roll out the remaining quarter of the pastry, and place this on top of the basin. Seal the edges. Cover the basin with a sheet of greaseproof paper, which you first pleat in the middle to allow the pastry to rise slightly, bearing in mind that it contains raw flour. Tie the paper securely round the top of the basin. Cover the pudding with a clean tea towel, and tie it round the rim of the basin. Bring the ends up over the pudding, and tie into a knot. Put the basin in a large saucepan, pour in boiling water until it reaches half way up the basin. Cover the saucepan with a lid, and simmer for two to two-and-a-half hours.

After that, a fresh green fruit salad is probably just what you want. This is simply a mixture of all the green fruit you can find... sultanas, grapes, muscat grapes, apples, pears, star fruit, passion fruit, melons.

Prepare as appropriate, and serve in a large glass bowl with twists of lime. Instead of using a sugar syrup, add a little apple or pear juice for a truly refreshing dish.

To precede such substantial dishes as pies, crumbles and suet puddings, I prefer to serve a light salad course with marinated fish or vegetables. Here is a combination offering a subtle oriental flavour. Salmon, mackerel, tuna or swordfish are all excellent prepared this way. Haddock or monkfish, too, could be used. The sesame seeds, sesame oil and soy sauce are the ingredients which give it the unusual flavour. Other oils and seeds or nuts can be substituted, but it will not taste the same. As an extra touch, add a few slivers of fresh lychee or mango and ginger.

**Oriental Fish Salad Serves 4**  
8oz/170g salad leaves, washed and dried  
1 leek or 3 spring onions  
3oz/85g beansprouts  
2 cloves garlic, peeled  
1 tsp soy sauce  
2 tsp sunflower or groundnut oil  
2 tsp sesame oil  
2 tsp rice vinegar, sherry vinegar or wine vinegar  
8oz/230g fresh skinned fish fillet  
1 level tsp toasted sesame seeds

Arrange the salad leaves on individual serving plates. Wash, trim and shred the leek or spring onions and mix with the beansprouts in a bowl. Crush the garlic and mix with the soy sauce, oils and vinegar. Pour the mixture over the vegetables, and let them stand while you prepare the fish.

Slice the fish as thinly as possible. Heat a frying pan, and "flavour" it with a little sunflower and sesame oil. Fry the fish for just a few seconds on each side; it should barely cook through. Arrange the beansprouts and leek on the salad leaves and the fish on top. Spoon on any remaining dressing, and sprinkle with the toasted sesame seeds.

## DRINK

### Message in a bottle

Jane MacQuitty has the complete answer to your Christmas shopping problems

No-one I know enjoys the fraught business of Christmas shopping. So this year why not appoint a wine merchant to send everyone on your list a good bottle or two of wine?

This year's crop of mail order Christmas wine offers is one of the glossiest and most appetizing I have seen yet; on offer are an imaginative range of festive wines, often accompanied by festive food.

Tanners (26 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, 0743 232400) is the place to go if you want your January bank balance to look healthy rather than horrific. Prices here start as low as £7.65 for a gift box containing a bottle each of Tanners' well-thought-of claret and the crisp white Sauvignon Blanc. Mouldins from the same region. Or for 30p more you could give Tanners' truly Vintage Character Port (£7.95). Magnums of wine at Christmas time look especially generous whatever their price tag says, so order a magnum of Tanners' claret for just £10.95. The Christmas offer closes on December 11, and delivery is free on the UK mainland for orders of £50 or more (otherwise £4.50 per order).

Robin Vapp of Vapp Brothers (The Old Brewery, Mere, Wiltshire, 0747 860423) always comes up with an intriguing selection of Christmas cases offering ge-



cross reductions on normal prices (delivery included). My favourite among these is always the Party Fizz Kit offering ten bottles of sparkling Sancerre Brut together with a bottle each of raspberry or strawberry liqueur. A small, teaspoon-sized dollop of either liqueur placed in the bottom of a tall flute glass and topped up with fizz makes a delicious rose-tinted festive drink. Good value at £65, saving £5.75 on normal prices. Christmas orders must be placed before December 1.

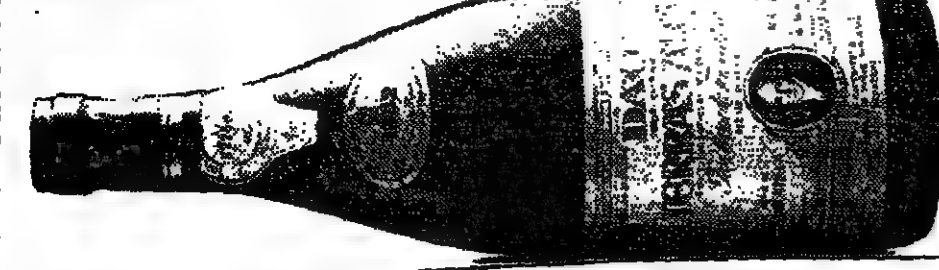
Lay & Wheeler (6 Culver Street West, Colchester, Essex, 0206 67261) are another leading country wine merchant known for good service and their ability to deliver the bottle on time. Their three-bottle wooden Bordeaux Selection crate (£23.79) contains such claret treats as '83 Ducloux, a Létrac '84 Reserve de la Comtesse, Pichon Lalande's second wine plus David Peppercorn's Pocket Guide to the Wines of Bordeaux. I also liked the sound of their port and stillton box containing L and W's own Vintage Character Port, and a 16oz chins milk churn of Long Clawson Blue Stillton (£18.06). Christmas orders must be placed before December 9.

No collection of Christmas wines by post would be complete without mentioning Adams (The Crown, Southwold, Suffolk, 0502 724222), whose '87 range is as imaginative and inexpensive as those of previous years. Country Cousins, a case of French Vin de Pays wines priced at £38, looks good value for six white and six red wines and would make a good start to the Christmas festivities. Classics still is the Two Rivers case (£47.50) containing among others that fine crisp '86 Sauvignon de Haut Poitou plus my favourite peppery-fruity '86 Chateau de Grand Moules from the Rhone.

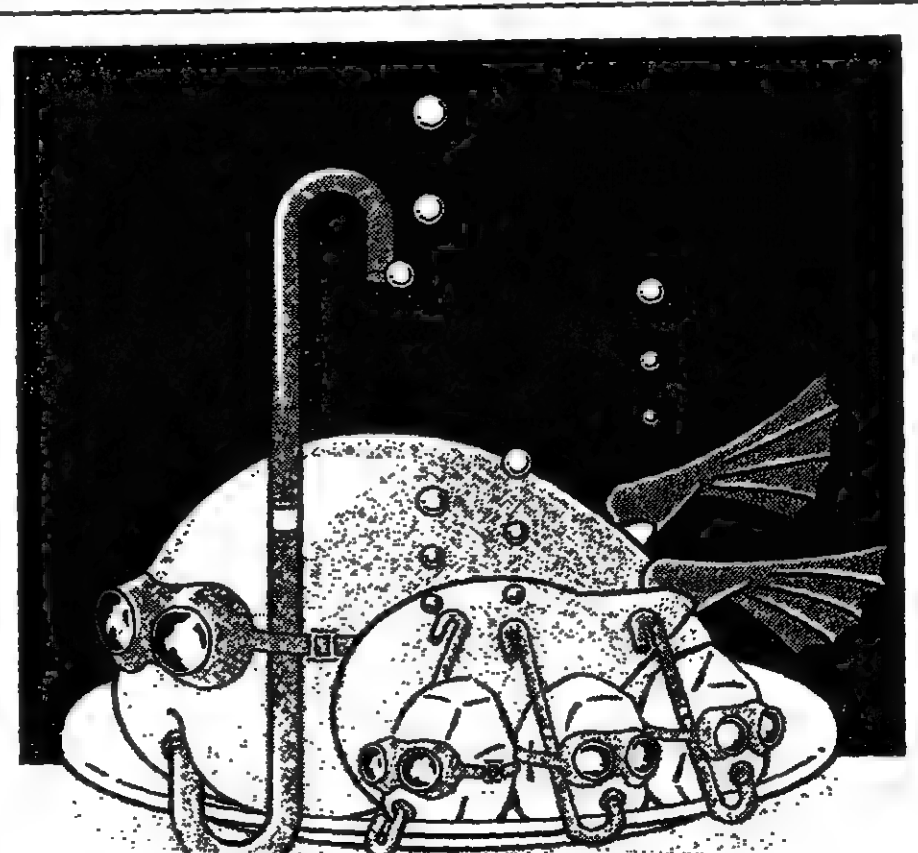


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The Bastardo we refer to is, of course, a grape: one of the selected varieties used to make this classic red wine. Naturally enough Terras Altas is a vintage Dão (that is to say all the grapes used are of the year stated on the label). It's also the only Dão produced by the most famous quality wine producer in Portugal, the world renowned House of J.M. da Fonseca. But, at around £3.00 a bottle, it'll doubtless be seen in a great many houses from now on.



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## THE ARTS

## TELEVISION

## Russell's trial by showbiz

"Everyone has their job because they saw it on TV", averred a New York lawyer in last night's *Arena* (BBC2). This man, a bouffant narcissist with 80 suits and a range of cufflinks that do everything but talk, was first drawn to his métier by seeing Robert Taylor in *Party Girl*. Not only does he view the law as a branch of showbiz, he has also built a minor career as a pop "singer" in videos directed by his client, the villainous Ken Russell.

Nigel Finch's hilarious documentary was a grotesque record of last summer's court battle between Mr Russell and Bob Guccione over their abortive stab at filming *Moll Flanders*. That the programme should have succeeded so well without once entering the courtroom was due to its interlocking circles of unreality.

A mock trial in the defence lawyer's office was a drama rehearsal that kept turning into a standard Ken Russell interview; the clichés of the spurned screenplay limped above moody shots of Manhattan nocturne; snippets of nude screen-tests alternated with a Sikh reciting "If..."

Like an empaneled juror, the viewer was constantly invited to decide what was fake and what genuine. The lawyer's way with words, for example, was clearly bogus (Singer is apparently a "superhuman" for all other American prisons), while Mr Guccione's interesting gold necklaces were too vulgar not to be real. The husky-voiced publisher and producer was not ashamed to admit that he identifies with Defoe's heroine, which raises the intriguing possibility that when the film does come to be made he should assume the title role himself. The director, naturally, would be Mr Finch.

Martin Cropper

## The film of the Booker

Chris Peachment talks to J.G. Ballard about Spielberg's film adaption of the author's prize-winning novel

The *Empire of the Sun* cast a weird, backward-looking beam of light over the previous landscapes of J.G. Ballard's novels. The cracked, distempered world of the Japanese detention camp in Shanghai, the barbed wire, the bombed-out ruins in which young Jim came of age, this was the stuff of Ballard's own life. Suddenly the drowned world, the terminal beach, the atrociously exhibitionist, the concrete islands of his previous works seemed a lot less like the "science fiction" which the unknowing had labelled them. Here was a man who knew all about living on the edge of things: a man who had realized at first hand that a landscape of broken concrete and sudden death was closer to the true experience of most people on this planet than were the green fields of the home counties. If he chose to set his novels in the future, that is hardly surprising for a man with such a past.

These days he lives in Shepperton. His is a distinctly low-tech Thirties semi in a suburban street full of sunrise wooden gates and Ford Fiestas. A widower, he now lives alone since his children have flown the nest. Only the very unimaginative would find some sort of paradox in a man living in such ordinary surroundings and yet spinning such outlandish yarns. Nonetheless, one can't help wondering what his neighbours make of his fiction. He doesn't stray from his fastness much either; once a year he comes up to town for a party thrown by *Ambit* magazine, which he co-edits with Martin Bax. Other than that, he steers clear of literary bashes. "I'd rather write the books than stand up behind a lectern and pontificate," he says. "God knows there are enough people doing that. And few enough of us actually writing the damn things."

*Empire of the Sun* is the first time a book of his has been filmed, although he did once express the desire that George Miller, director of the *Mad Max* trilogy, should make a film of *Crash*, which would suggest that as far as film goes he can recognise a winner. He is well pleased that Spielberg ended up with the project, "because he has an unequalled gift for handling children and a proven ability with very large action scenes." Ballard himself makes a small appearance as a guest at a fancy dress party.

The Day of Creation (published

by Gollancz) occurs in the Third World. And again one is forced to a new realization: that all of his novels have been set in a third world of some kind. Somewhere between Chad and Sudan, a doctor who has been drilling for water, uncovers a natural spring and brings to life a huge river. It promises a new Garden of Eden for the area, but to Mallory it represents an unacceptable part of himself. He bought it to life, now he must travel its length in an old ferry boat, and engineer its extinction. "People do react like that," Ballard says. "The things which they have created and which grow larger than themselves. Parents often resent their children's successes. But Mallory is constantly dogged by his own attempts to understand exactly what is happening between himself and the river."

Ballard himself is also dogged by the same problem. "I'm not too sure where all this stuff comes from," he says. "Somewhere at the back of my brain there is some weird device, spinning out this web... it's all a great mystery to me." On his wall is a Delvaux-like dreamscape, with naked women strolling a sunless plain of flagstones. It was always an article of faith with the surrealists that the strange exists in the everyday, and exists, moreover, without possibility of explanation. "Exactly," Ballard says. "I have always thought I was close to the surrealists in that respect. The more I think about dreams, the more I believe they are insoluble. They must just exist in a state of mystery."

Nonetheless, the essential realism of the book should be stressed. The landscape may be hallucinatory, and Ballard may write about it more tenderly than he does his characters, but it is still a landscape which is true to the romantic tradition of reflecting the character's feelings

Portrait of the artist: Ballard himself has a part in Spielberg's film *The Empire of the Sun*, playing John Bull

## 'I'm not sure where this stuff comes from — it's a mystery'

and thoughts. It is also recognizably real. "Never for one moment did I think it was an imaginary landscape," says Ballard. "I may stretch the limits of the normal, but to me it was absolutely real."

Journeys alongside Mallory, in his trip up-stream to the heart of darkness, is a charlatan TV presenter desperately trying to make a third-rate nature programme about the river and Mallory's twisted relationship with it. Overlaid on Mallory's own desperate struggles to understand the first-hand nature of his predicament is this presenter, lamely creating his own fictions, unaware that they are a second-hand order of experience. It is a very good satire.

"It is exactly what we have to contend with all day from the television," Ballard says, "where everything is a replay. Indeed the replay comes to be seen as the first order of experience, the thing itself."

Whether it is Vietnam or football, it is all recreated to suit the clichés of the medium. Nature is being turned into a theme park before our very eyes. Everything is given a bushy tail. By the next century, the world will have been completely packaged by wildlife documentaries into something homogenized and sanitized, with the texture of cheap ice cream.

"Look at Reagan," he says, warning of his hatred of the media grip on our lives. "It is extraordinary enough that an actor can become President, but what is even more worrying is that Americans seem to like it. Supposing that brain surgeons were suddenly replaced by actors pretending to be brain surgeons. No doubt you'd get a terrific bedside manner. But when you are finally in the operating theatre... This sounds like an excellent idea for a new J.G. Ballard book. "Yes," he says. "The problem is, it's already been written. It's called Reality."



Free: Christian Bale as young Jim liberated from his detention camp

## THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

## Serota's successor

The Whitechapel Art Gallery could look overseas for a director to replace Nick Serota, who moves to the Tate next year. The Netherlands is particularly rich in possible candidates, well-versed in both 20th-century art and the requirements of a gallery combining international renown with concern for its local neighbourhood. At the same time an outsider would import a fresh perspective, which Whitechapel trustees might favour after 11 years of Serota rule. Mindful they might not want more of the same, Serota intends to exert little influence over the choice. The post will be advertised soon after the board's meeting next week.

## Tackling Medea

Taking on the monster mantle of Medea — who killed her children after being deserted by husband Jason — has not put British soprano Elizabeth Connell off marriage. While making her debut in the testing title role of Cherubino's work at the Sydney Opera House in August, she met and fell in love with Australian singer and artist Robert Eddie. The wedding takes place on December 19. Connell, whose preparations for Medea are described in Radio 4's next *Wednesday Feature*, gave a performance that moved one critic to say she had "done a Callas". Maria Callas rescued the role from obscurity in 1953 and few have dared follow since.

Crucibles used by Anthony Sher in *Richard III* provide the battle trophy for the annual theatre quiz between teams from the NT and RSC at the Lyttelton on December 30. The prize used to be Ralph Richardson's walking stick but after being won three times by the NT, that's now going on permanent display in a glass case.

## Poetic justice

Rejected by several big London institutions — the Royal Academy turned it down twice — the exhibition *William Wordsworth and the Age of English Romanticism* looked to America for better fortune. It is now breaking attendance records at the New York Public Library, since



Wordsworth Thatcher opening last month the catalogue has already had to be reprinted. Containing some 200 treasures relating to the poet and his literary contemporaries, some never seen before in public, it later moves to Indiana, then Chicago. Ironically, its patron is Margaret Thatcher.

## Old friends

It is not only Sir John Gielgud who is making a return to the West End after a long absence when Hugh Whitmore's new play, *The Best of Friends*, opens in February. Ray McNally last trod the boards of the London stage 17 years ago. That was a tiny role in an RSC production of *Tiny Alice*, by Edward Albee: now that he is a star of celluloid — films *The Mission* and *No Surrender*, television's *A Perfect Spy* — this stalwart of Dublin's Abbey Theatre is to take a leading part as George Bernard Shaw, who forged an enduring friendship with Sir Sydney Carlyle Cockerill (Cockfield) and Dame Laurence McLachlan (Rosemary Harris).

The National Theatre is embarking on its first major publishing venture and discussing a paperback series on the performing arts. The general editor is likely to be John Goodwin, who leaves in May as the NT's head of publicity and publications. He has worked alongside outgoing director Sir Peter Hall from the creation of the RSC in the early 1960s, and edited Hall's best-selling *Diaries* while placating nervous off-stage dramas.

Lynda Murrill

## OPERA

## Drama that doesn't fade

Tosca  
Covent Garden

The cornerstones of the Italian repertory have not exactly been Covent Garden's strength these last few years. Productions of several of the most popular operas have become tacky or just faded gently away to oblivion. But amidst the decay in this area the Zeffirelli staging of *Tosca* has remained indestructible. It is fast approaching its quarter century, has housed in its time many of the world's most distinguished artists and is back again this week with a trio of fearless singers and Sinopoli in the pit to ensure an evening of red-blooded melodrama.

The title role is taken for the first time in London by Eva Marton, although she has sung another Puccini heroine, Turandot, with the company. Mme. Marton is not a soprano for the subtle gesture. She



Red-blooded: Eva Marton and Peter Dvorsky as Tosca and Cavaradosi at Covent Garden

sweeps into the Church of Sant'Andrea intent on one thing. Cavaradosi, that little phrase where she rebukes him for ruffling her hair is right in character. Less credible is the raising of her cloak to conceal a stolen kiss from the eyes of the Madonna statue — now rather more prominent in Wilfred Judd's restaging. Marton misses the girlish and flirtatious side of Floria Tosca.

She misses too the basic faith of "Vissi d'arte", much

of which was sung perversely facing away from Sinopoli. The strengths are the impulsiveness, the sudden jealousies and above all the killing of Scarpia, which recalled that much-shown ATV film of Callas and Gobbi. Perhaps it is no coincidence that Eva Marton has gone back to the burlesque dress Callas used to wear in Act II. And there is too the high-decibel voice. It may sound a little frayed around the edges at times, but there are not many sopranos around able to swamp a Sinopoli orchestra. Mme. Marton is one of the few.

Peter Dvorsky, also singing here in Tosca for the first time, plays Cavaradosi as a Republican agitator rather than the lyric painter that, say, Bergonzi provides. His tenor is now essentially a dramatic one and it matches the swarthy, heavily bearded appearance. There were one or two intonation problems to start with, but Dvorsky soon settled down to provide clear, rich tone and far better Italian than his East European neighbour, Eva Marton.

Ingvar Wixell, by contrast, is well acquainted with this

production and commanded most of the first two acts until he fell foul of the carving knife — and even managed a few convincing convulsions thereafter. His baritone is in tremendous shape at the moment and any occupying power looking for a chief of police should sign him up at once. A five star performance. It was left to Giuseppe Sinopoli to provide the subtlety and add to the melodrama. The latter came easily, especially at the end of each act with the Act III death march spectacularly sinister. Elsewhere, notably at the start and during the Act III prelude, it seemed that sometimes he was trying to draw things from the orchestra which could only have been achieved with a much longer rehearsal period. But these are tiny complaints: this was a pleasure to have in the pit a conductor with a real feel for Puccini's colourings instead of one of the itinerant maestri content with a competent routine performance.

John Higgins

There will be a live transmission of *Tosca* from Covent Garden on Radio 3 on December 5.

## Burning with passion

## THEATRE

Effie's Burning  
Offstage Downstairs

"I burnt their house down, and I can do it again," declares the heroine of Valerie Windsor's play, which has been awaiting another London home since last June's fire at the Bush.

Running to barely an hour, it is a powerful and magnificently performed two-hander, telling the tale of a simple-minded country girl from her brutalized childhood to her incendiary old age.

Effie (short for "effing-brat") has spent her life in a mental home after being thrown out by her family as a 13-year-old rape victim. She adapts to the institution and develops ties of belonging, all

of which are severed when she is moved to the cut-price freedom of a rehabilitation hostel where she is forcibly separated from her best friend.

On learning of the friend's death ("They said what a blessing it was really") she burns the place down.

Described like that the piece sounds like an anti-institutional polemic. It may indeed reflect the case of thousands of similar victims of bigotry and bureaucratic myopia; but its force on stage derives from the author's cunning use of narrative perspective.

Effie gradually unfolds her history to a woman doctor, a Czech exile who is herself a displaced person: so that the formal doctor-patient relationship combines a dialogue between fellow sufferers; and it is poor, brain-damaged Effie who gives the nervously submissive Dr

Kovacs the courage to assert herself professionally.

Bright Forsyth makes a business-like entrance in a white coat and promptly subsides into confusion by dropping her papers on the floor. From that low point, you see her gathering confidence from her passionate absorption in the story she gradually extracts from the large grey-haired figure in the bed.

What Paula Tilbrook presents is not only an old lady with the mind of a 10-year-old; when she smiles, tapdances under the bed-clothes, and dissolves into giggles when remembering past mischiefs, she becomes a little girl. It is the same magic that Judi Dench worked in *A Kind of Alaska*, and in Susan Mayo's production, it touches the heart.

Irving Wardle

## Cooney starts another run

It Runs In The  
Family  
Yvonne Arnaud

Ray Cooney has every excuse to believe the word "run" augurs well for success when *Run For Your Wife*, an earlier Cooney piece, is now centering into its sixth West End year.

His latest runner is at Guildford on a try-out, and where the action reveals thin places — though nothing so alarming as your actual holes — the Cooney after-care should soon stitch them together.

The first essential of farce is initial sobriety, and sure enough the setting is the doctors' common room in a London hospital where John Quayle's suave neurologist is rehearsing the most important speech of his career.

The second essential is gathering panic. This is seeded by ex-Nurse Tate (Una

Stubbs), who returns after 18 years to confess that their brief union was blessed with issue and said issue wants to meet his dad.

Wife, matron, and fellow doctors are fed a succession of giddily different lies, which do not have the manic logic of *Moviefone*, *Mrs Markham* (ah, that was long ago), but serve the Cooney purpose of putting everyone rapidly at cross-purposes.

The direction (Cooney again) is least successful when the actors signal with grins that they know they are being funny. I also needed time to warm to the Quayle character, and only did so when he

started losing his medical cool with Derek Royle's chair-bound patient.

This endearing figure, under the misapprehension that he has been moved into a private room supplied with live entertainment on the National Health, is eventually sent hurrying in his wheelchair through the swing doors. But Cooney is too clever to let so rich a character go for good.

Making the son a punk, however, as well as a mother's boy, is a stale joke: why not a snivelling yuppie or Jesus freak?

Jeremy Kingston

## The birthday party

To mark Dame Peggy Ashcroft's 80th birthday in December the Royal Shakespeare Company is staging a charity gala entitled *Her Infinite Variety* at the Old Vic on Sunday December 20. Dame Peggy was a founder member of the RSC: her last appearance with the company was in 1982 as the Countess in Trevor Nunn's production of *All's Well That Ends Well*. Tickets for the gala are on sale at the Old Vic. Proceeds from the show will be given to the charities Save the Children and Help the Aged.

## A BBC lecture tour around the symphony

It was time for music to be called to answer for itself in the public court of the Reith Lectures, and Alexander Goehr was the right person to choose as advocate: a man who, as a composer in the theatre, in universities and at the BBC, has been concerned with how music can continue as an essential part of our culture, and has also proved himself as wise in words as in notes. The first two lectures, though, have been disappointingly meagre, perhaps largely because Goehr has been unsure of his audience.

Nothing else could explain his

devotion of almost the whole of his first lecture to a sketchy history of the symphony, throwing out some trenchant observations but lacking exactly the argumentative continuity he most values in his chosen genre. Instead of discussing "The Survival of the Symphony", he declared theme for all these lectures, he is running the risk of demonstrating how perilous is the survival of serious thought, and serious talk, about music.

But it could hardly be otherwise when, as he has said, we live in an age when so many different defini-

nitions of music are possible, even leaving aside, as he does, all the varieties of popular music (including the esoteric and distinctly unpopular).

Like most of us, he feels ambiguous about this multiplicity. On the one hand he wants to cheer the freedom that records give us to become as familiar with "14th-century motets or Congolese drumming" as with the symphonic repertory. On the other he fears that a "pluralistic culture of mutually exclusive musics to be picked up and dropped at will has a peculiarly

weightless and arbitrary character to it."

This is the problem. How can a composer today behave as a Brahms, or be accepted as a Brahms, within a musical culture that has room for plainsong and Stockhausen, Indonesian percussion and Andean panpipes, let alone whatever you can hear in irritating tinny strokes from the nearest Walkman? And it is a problem too for performers, whose recordings will enter the marketplace along with those of Furtwangler, Callas and Arrau.

Goehr's second lecture trod this rather familiar ground, and made the good point that record companies and the BBC could do more to encourage creative work specially for records, radio and television. It is indeed scandalous and pitiful that we have no musical Dennis Potter. But even if we did, I doubt this would be the way towards achieving the integration of cultural diversity that Goehr seems to want. We must expect to see him following larger prey in succeeding weeks.

Paul Griffiths

## CHRISTMAS SEASON

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## REVIEW

## Magnificent Mahler

## CLASSICAL RECORDS

Mahler: Symphony no 2 (CBSO)  
Rattle, EMI CDS 7 47962 2 (two CDs)  
Mahler: Symphonies nos 6 and 10  
(Adagio) Philharmonia/Sinopoli DG 423  
082-2 (two CDs)  
Brahms: Symphony no 1 Berlin  
PO/Karajan, DG 423 141-2 (CD)  
Brahms: Symphony no 2, Haydn  
Variations Berlin PO/Karajan, DG 423  
142-2 (CD)  
Beethoven: Symphony no 7,  
Overture "The Consecration of the  
House" Dresden Staatskapelle/  
Tietel, EMI CDC 7 47815 2 (CD)

Even among the crowding peaks of Simon Rattle's achievements with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, their new recording of Mahler's "Resurrection" Symphony is something outstanding. And it is very much "their" success, a joint effort, not merely because the playing is so wonderful but also, and more importantly, because Rattle's tempos are felt and breathed by everyone concerned. This is, to a very remarkable degree, a recording in which one does not sense flailing arms things just happen, and happen with the greater strength for being general.

If the symphony seems therefore to be playing itself, that is of enormous benefit to one's awareness of its several voices. Contrapuntal clarity is partly an issue here, and certainly this performance puts more of the music on a view than usual (the cello melody in the second movement, for instance, is for once properly forward, and very beautiful). But just as important is the ease with which different groups succeed one another in the same line, as when the main strand near the end of the first movement passes from horns to woodwind to trumpets to full orchestra with no break in continuity. This is the confident style of an orchestra that knows where it is going.

The long lines obviously help consistency; so do Rattle's speeds, which tend to be deliberate and impressively stable. Of course he



Simon Rattle

responds where a change is marked in the score (and sometimes where it is not), but each movement has an underlying pulse to which it keeps returning. The renewed steadiness at the close of the first movement, to take just one spectacular example,

makes an even more desperate effect than the rapid collapse most conductors prefer here: Rattle's implacability at the furious climax of this movement is also something to shake the soul.

The scherzo is full of precisely

conveyed disturbances at a more ironic level: as much a stream of echoes, snarls and sudden strangenesses as Berio made of this music in his *Sinfonia*, yet once more unified by rhythmic coherence. Janet Baker then impressively attains simplicity to accord with Rattle's coolly wonder-filled "Urlich", and Arleen Auger and the CBSO Chorus join in with long-breathed exaltation in the finale.

This marvellous recording rather shows up the weakness and shallowness of Giuseppe Sinopoli's Mahler. His new version of the Sixth Symphony moves in fits and starts, with ensemble never entirely secure, and with the further disadvantages of grunted accompaniment and a rhythmic naivety that makes quick staccato music seem merely bathetic, whereas similar passages from Rattle are filled with humour or menace or both.

There is also disappointment in the first instalment of Karajan's new Brahms cycle. For all the sternness conveyed by many of the gestures, there is a strong feeling of lack of control, revealed by fuzzy ensemble (with high woodwind often wavering from the beat) and failings of continuity. The result is a distraught Brahms, certainly unusual, but not very convincing, except possibly in the variation set.

In its imposing solidity, Jeffrey Tate's Beethoven offers a startling and welcome contrast. Perhaps the funeral-march tempo for the slow movement of the Seventh Symphony stretches Beethoven's Allegretto a bit, but the Dresden flutes, clarinets and horns take advantage of the space to extend their refreshing tone, captured in an open acoustic and producing almost the sense of an outdoor performance. Elsewhere there is a pounding joy that cannot be ignored, a purposeful weight in the slowish finale, and an exultant togetherness.

Paul Griffiths

## Many and various

## ROCK RECORDS

Various Artists A Very Special Christmas (A&M AWA 9511)  
Various Artists Now That's What I Call Music 10  
(EMI/Virgin/Polygram NOW 10)  
Eric B. & Rakim Paid In Full  
(4th & Broadway BRLP 514)

As usual at this point on the calendar, there are only a few days left until the LP chart becomes dominated by that ubiquitous act Various Artists. With *A Very Special Christmas*, the producer Jimmy Iovine has set the standard by which others will be judged, by involving an astonishing roster of artists to record Christmas songs.

Bruce Springsteen testifies on "Merry Christmas Baby", Eurythmics' Annie Lennox sings with a voice as cool and pure as the driven snow on "Winter Wonderland". The Edge catches Duane Eddy's twang on U2's "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)" and Madonna hits the megastack jackpot with her version of Eartha Kitt's "Santa Baby". My favourites are Run DMC's homely rap "Christmas In Hollis" and Bryan Adams' belting "Run Rudolph Run", but with contributions from Whitney Houston, the Pretenders, Sting, Bon Jovi, Alison Moyet and others, there is something of seasonal cheer for all the family.



Starry-eyed: some of A&amp;M's Very Special Christmas crew

The speed with which hits become parts of the *Now That's What I Call Music* series is breathtaking. *Now 10* includes no less than four of this week's Top 10 singles: songs by Whitesnake, Nina Simone, the Communards and T'Pau. Such singles cost £1.99 each, yet this double album, containing 30 hits in all, retails for £7.99. So who is still buying enough copies of "China In Your Hand" to keep it in the chart, let alone at No. 1, and please would they stop?

Listeners to Radio 1's much improved "instant" chart service last Sunday may have been surprised to hear a

sinister rap record built round a lilting motif created from a sound roughly approximating the whine of a dentist's drill. This was the brilliant Funky Bunch's "Rebel Without A Pause", which together with Eric B. & Rakim's similarly exotic rap "Paid In Full" is currently in the Top 40. Both songs are nevertheless rarely to be heard on Radio 1. For more of the same definitive hard-nosed hip hop, check the seductive James Brown beats on the underrated album *Paid In Full*, and Public Enemy's bristling black pride ego-trip *Yo! Bum Rush The Show*.

David Sinclair

## Eastern time

## JAZZ RECORDS

Gary Peacock *Guamba*  
(ECM 1352)  
Marvin "Smitty" Smith  
Keeper of the Drums (Concord CJ-325)

Well known in the Sixties for his associations with such avant-gardists as Albert Ayler and Paul Bley, the bassist Gary Peacock disappeared to Japan for several years at the beginning of the Seventies. The series of recordings he has made for ECM since his return, beginning with *Tales of Another* in 1977, suggest that the Japanese environment provided a sort of finishing school for a musician already endowed with unusual levels of intelligence and instrumental technique. *Guamba*, a quartet recording made earlier this year, suggests that he is now also a musical architect of the first rank. Assisted by two of northern Europe's finest jazz musicians, the trumpeter Palle Mikkelborg and the saxophonist Jan Garbarek, and with his fellow American Peter Erskine at the drums, Peacock has devised a set of evocative and cunningly dovetailed compositions that realize in a very personal way many of the implications of the innovations in group playing suggested by Ornette Coleman's Atlantic quartets and Bill Evans's first trio.

This is a music of great refinement and delicacy, its

love of economy surely a product of Peacock's immersion in Japanese culture, but at no time does it fall short of what we in the West call energy. The taut strength of Peacock's bass and the crisp power of Erskine's drums make sure of that, and the two hornmen are at their very best, Mikkelborg in particular proving yet again that he is one of the dozen finest jazz trumpeters currently active.

*Keeper of the Drums* is an altogether less intense affair, being the leadership debut of that outstandingly gifted young musician Marvin Smith, who—in the completeness of a technique that allows him to synthesize and develop the work of the very best of his forebears—could be said to be the Wynton Marsalis of the drums. Like Marsalis, Smith has astonishingly fast reactions and the capacity to respond to anything that is thrown at him. The greatest modern masters—Blakey, Roach, Higgins and Jones—are present in his playing, and his eight compositions on this set prove that he can devise a pretty ballad as easily as a macho hard-top burner. Colleagues from the Dave Holland Quintet, including the saxophonist Steve Coleman, and several moonlighting Jazz Messengers, complete a septet of young lions.

Richard Williams

## CHESS

## Miniature win

A recent tournament in Belgrade resulted in a triumph for the erratic Yugoslav Grandmaster, Ljubomir Ljubovjevic. He won first prize in a strong field ahead of Ian Timman in second place. This was a welcome comeback for Ljubovjevic, who had earlier finished an ignominious last in an event of similar strength at Tilburg in Holland.

England's top player, Nigel Short, did not play up to his normal fine standard at Belgrade, but he did distinguish himself by winning a virtual miniature against that great veteran, Victor Korchnoi.

White: Nigel Short; Black: Victor Korchnoi. Giuoco Piano, Belgrade 1987.

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 c3 Nc6 5 b4

Instilling a kind of Evans Gambit deferred. The alternative 5 d4 cxd4 6 cxd4 Bb4+ is very popular at club level, but among Grandmasters it is considered likely to burn out to a draw.

An ambitious rupture of the centre, perhaps symptomatic of Korchnoi's desire to achieve too much against White's slow opening.

genious idea in mind but has overlooked a tactical finesse. He had to play 11 ... exd4.

12 dxe5 Nxe5

Consistently pursuing the path to perdition.

13 Nxe5 Qg5

Planning to regain his sacrificed piece by virtue of the double attack, but Short has a nasty surprise in store.

14 g3 Ne2+

Korchnoi proceeds oblivious to White's coming coup.

15 Bxe2

This destroys Black's entire conception. Short obtains three pieces and the initiative for his offered Queen.

16 ... Bb3 17 a2b3 Rxb3 18 Bf4 Nf5

Short's forces converge for the kill. All Korchnoi can do is struggle helplessly.

19 g5 20 Ng4 Qxc3 21 Nxf6 Kg7 22 Ng5 Qxb4 23 Nxf7 Qd4 24 Rad1 Qc3

Korchnoi could already have capitulated with a clear conscience, but he probably wanted to avoid losing a miniature, which is technically 25 moves or fewer.

And in playing that move Korchnoi resigned without waiting to see Short's reply.

Raymond Keene

## BRIDGE

## Luck of the Greeks

When you are playing in the European Championships there are few opportunities to study the form of your rivals. But I did find time to watch Iceland playing Greece in the 22nd round. Both teams surpassed the hopes of even their most optimistic supporters, Iceland finishing 4th and Greece a most creditable 8th. As Iceland, strongly in contention for the medals, were to be our opponents in the last round, the match had a special significance.

The Greeks were lucky to gain points on this hand where they held the East-West cards. Iceland v Greece. East-West game. Dealer South.

♠ K98  
♥ A10  
♦ KJ592  
♣ A102

W N E S  
No 267(2) 37 34(3)  
Double (4) No No

(1) The widely adopted multi-coloured two demerits.  
(2) Asking for a diamond.  
(3) Showing that the bid meant a weak two spade opening.  
(4) Unwise.

West led a heart to his partner's ace. East continued

with a heart, which declarer won with the VK. The ♠10 was covered in turn by the ♠Q, the ♠K and the ♠A. East returned a diamond, which was as good as anything. The vugraph commentators prophesied that South would make 10 tricks, providing a swing to Iceland. But despite the favourable start, the hand still required care. South incautiously continued with the ♠A, but when he played a second round of spades West inserted the ♠10. In trouble, South won with dummy's ♠K and continued with the ♠9. West won the ♠Q and switched to a club, which left declarer with insoluble entry problems.

If South, forewarned by West's double, had started the trumps with a low spade towards dummy's ♠K98, West would have had no counter. His best chance is to insert the ♠10. But dummy can win and return the ♠9. Now when West wins and switches to a club, the remaining spade in dummy permits declarer to draw the trumps and then discard his losing club on dummy's diamonds.

If the Greeks were a trifle fortunate on that hand, they fully deserved their swing on this one, when they were North-South.

Iceland v Greece. Game all. Dealer North.

♠ AKB  
♥ 1083  
♦ A10  
♣ 10852

W N E S  
20 14 10 14  
No 29 No No

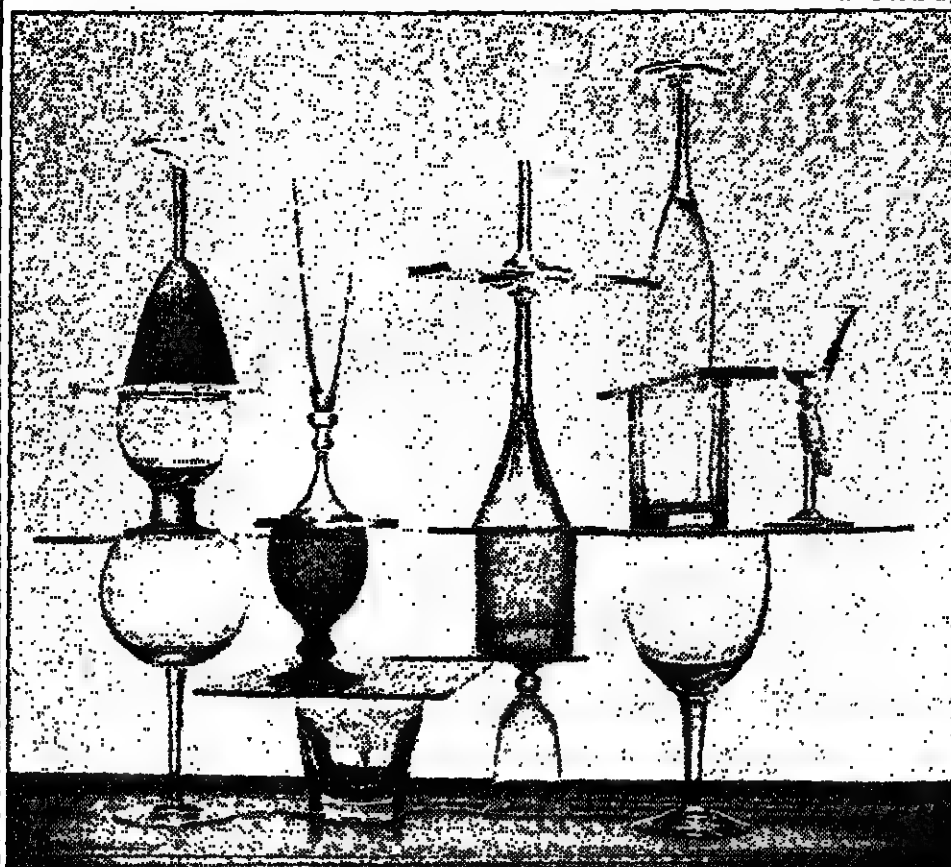
Opening lead ♠A

The defence started with three rounds of diamonds. Declarer made his first good move when instead of ruffing he discarded a heart, and followed it up by discarding another heart when the defence persisted with a fourth diamond. East, who could obviously have defeated the contract if he had switched to hearts earlier, did his best to make amends by cashing the ♠A and playing a fifth diamond, allowing West to ruff with the ♠Q, forcing out a top spade from dummy.

But now declarer showed excellent technique. He ruffed a heart in hand, cashed two clubs, finishing in dummy, and played a heart. East's ♠10852 were ruthlessly crushed in the mangle. He ruffed, South overruffed and returned to dummy with a top spade to complete East's discomfiture with a simple trump finesse.

Jeremy Flint

## SHOPPING



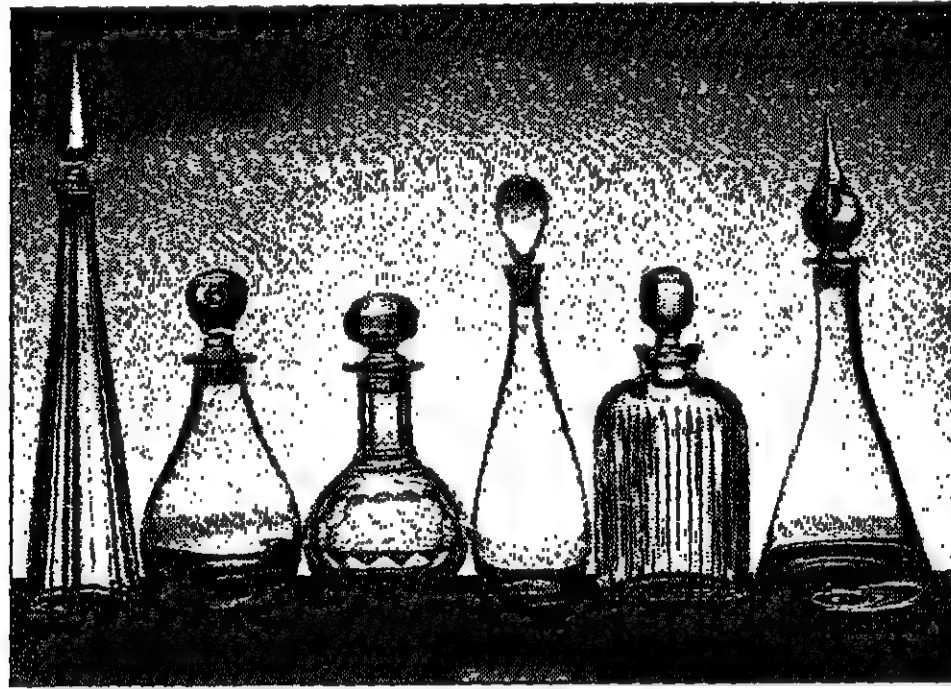
Top to bottom, left to right: frosted grey wine glass by Penny Wurr, £4.95 from The Futon Company; Spanish glass, £1.95 from large range at Liberty; oversized wine taster, £14.50 per pair, Heal's; Champagne flute, £21.95; dark blue goblet, £5.95; Liberty; oversized 15oz spirit tumbler, £16.15 General Trading Company. Frosted peach-coloured wine glass by Penny Wurr, £4.95 The Futon Company; Opera sherry glass, £17.25 Perfect Glass; frosted blue tumbler by Penny Wurr, £4.95 The Futon Company; pink wine glass, £10.75 Liberty. Gatsby champagne taster, £15.95 per pair, Heal's; Admiration tumbler by Riechel, £12.15 General Trading Company; parrot-stem cocktail glass, £24.49 Perfect Glass; bottle glass, £8.50 General Trading Company.

## Rose-tinted glasses

Nicole Swengley finds glassware to give or keep for yourself

Christmas or any other celebration calls for a set of good glasses. Some of the prettiest wine glasses and tumblers, hand-crafted in frosted grey, blue, pink or peach, can be found at The Futon Company, while Liberty stocks a wide selection of coloured glass from Spain and Italy. Over-sized wine goblets and spirit tumblers are also fashionable and available from General Trading Company and Heal's.

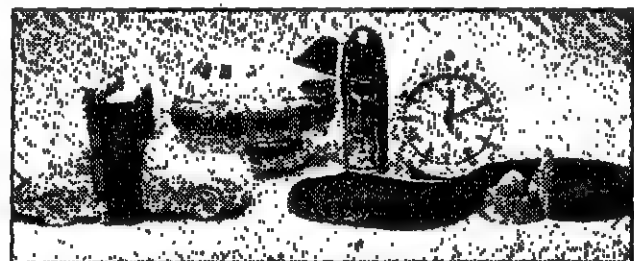
Party problems can be solved by a visit to London's Perfect Glass Shop, where there is a huge selection of glasses at all prices, from champagne flutes with matching bucket and punch sets to boxes of inexpensive tumblers, plus a range of tankards, decanters and jugs. If you are thinking of having glasses engraved for Christmas gifts, Perfect Glass can take orders up to 10 days prior to Christmas.



Left to right: Baccarat, £184 from a selection at Harvey Nichols; Directors by Dartington Glass, £31 from the Design Centre Shop; clear cut Torquai by Dartington Glass, £59 from major department stores; Illusion by Orrefors, £50.75 from Perfect Glass; Desk Flask, £49.95 from Heal's; Sharon by Dartington Glass, £31.50 from the Design Centre Shop.

## All for fun

It's always hard to find jokey presents without wading through the heaps of vulgar puns which pass for humorous gifts in so many shops. We liked a ghost-shaped teapot, £17.50 from The Tea House, 15a Neal Street, WC2; *Spitting Image* Thatcher and Reagan puppets, £4.99 each from Selfridges in Oxford Street; house-shaped egg cosies, £1.68 from Naturally British, 13 New Row, WC2; and the selection here.



Left to right: ceramic Porsche book-ends, £4.99 (Reject Shop, The Plaza Centre, Oxford Street, London W1); rocket cookie jar, £19.95 (Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1); bullet-shaped flask, £20.80 (Fast Forward, 14a Newburgh Street, London W1); fish tie, £7.50 (General Trading Company, 144 Soane Street, London SW1); yellow rubber clock, £23.75 (Way in at Harrods); pyramid egg cup, £2.25 (Harrods).

## NEWS LINES

Many people prefer buying charity Christmas cards but don't always know where to find them. This year there are five shops in central London under the Charities Advisory Trust umbrella which stock cards from a variety of charities. They are at The Barbican Centre, The National Theatre, New Gallery, 123 Regent Street, W1; St Martins-in-the-Field, Trafalgar Square; and 25 Mortimer Street, W1. The Intermediate Technology charity card shop is at 9 King Street, WC2.

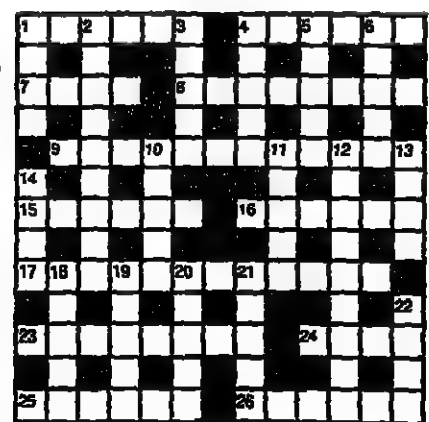
Rose bushes make unusual and welcome gifts, in particular the older French varieties which are often hard to track down at garden centres these days. Roses du Temps Passé offers a mail order service through which old roses can be sent directly to friends or family. An even better idea is its special pack containing gift vouchers and catalogue which enables recipients to select their own choice of blooms. More details from *Roses du Temps Passé*, Woodlands House, Stretton, nr Stafford ST19 9LG (0785 840217).

Gifts which offer recipients some flexibility in their use are always welcome. Barbican Centre vouchers can be exchanged, in whole or in part, for tickets for performances in its theatre or cinema and meals in the centre's restaurants and shops. They come in units of £1, £5 and £10 and are sold at the box office to personal callers, or by credit card over the telephone (01-638 8891).

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1425

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, December 3. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, December 5.

ACROSS  
1 Reddish-brown (6)  
4 Charge with CO2 (6)  
7 Rounded projection (4)  
8 Early film projector (8)  
9 Jason's body (6,6)  
10 Bank (6)  
16 Depressor (6)  
17 Star of David (8,4)  
23 Brass rubbings (8)  
24 Be unsuccessful (4)  
25 Smiles incorrectly (16)  
26 Fraud (6)



DOWN  
1 Irritate (4)  
2 Of low intelligence (9)  
3 Claret (5)  
4 Standoffish (5)  
5 Blouse full (5)  
6 Essay theme (5)  
10 Fantasy (5)  
11 Guides (5)  
12 Shore walk (9)  
13 Countess's husband (4)  
14 Deeds (4)  
18 Fuming sulphuric acid (5)  
19 Slaves (5)  
20 Pearls translucent gems (5)  
21 Sound (5)  
22 Split open (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1424  
ACROSS: 1 Static 4 Tremor 7 Lips 8 Ave Maria 9 Cleaver 11 Unity 12 Somerset House 15 Mince 16 Acrotal 20 Trapezia 21 Zion 22 Deepen 23 Target

DOWN: 1 Selects 2 Ample 3 Chase 4 Trick 5 Martina 6 Ready 10 Verve 11 Usher 13 Mundane 14 Extinct 15 Mated 17 Trail 18 Bring 19 Azan

SOLUTION TO NO 1419  
ACROSS: 1 Furrow 4 Sature 7 Fact 8 Epigram 9 Spick-and-span 15 Animal 16 Ignore 17 Kingsley Arms 23 Domestic 24 Peak 25 Myrtle 26 Tom-tom  
DOWN: 1 Fife 2 Reception 3 Whet 4 Scion 5 Turps 6 RSPCA 10 Chaos 11 Dogma 12 Prominent 13 Noel 14 Sark 18 Irony 19 Green 20 Lithé 21 Yacht 22 Skim

The winners of prize crossword No 1419 are: Miss M. Platts, Coldwell Lane, Sheffield; and J. Dawson, Driveway Road, Liverpool.

N.S.



## THE WEEK AHEAD



## CONCERTS

**RARE VISIT:** Eugene Istomin, the distinguished American pianist, has made music with all the best people in all the best places yet is little appreciated in Britain and rarely comes here. So his recital on Thursday will be a considerable event. He has chiefly been associated with major 19th century works, so his programming a Haydn sonata, Book One of Debussy's *Images* and an ambitious Rachmaninov group marks an intriguing departure. Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SE1 (01-928 3191).



## THEATRE

**JUDY, JUDY:** Lesley Mackie is small in stature but has a powerful voice and a winning personality. Winner of a 1986 Laurence Olivier Award for her portrayal of Judy Garland in *Judy*, coincidentally also first seen in London at Greenwich, she returns there in a role created in 1956 by another Judy, Holiday. In *Judy*, Betty Comden and Adolph Green's musical comedy *The Girls Are Ringing*, she plays a girl at an answering service who gets involved with clients' problems. Greenwich Theatre (01-858 7755) from Thursday.



## DANCE

**PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST:** Christopher Gable, before he became an actor, was the Royal Ballet's brightest full grown male star. Tempted back to dancing to play the painter Lowry in the BBC TV production *A Simple Man*, he returns to the boards in *Manchester* this week (Monday to Wednesday) in the stage version of the same work, playing opposite Lynn Seymour whom he frequently partnered all through the Sixties. *Swan Lake* follows on Friday and December 5. Palace, Manchester (061 236 9922).



## TELEVISION

**MURDER STORY:** David Threlfall plays a criminal who returns from Spain to avenge the murder of his 12-year-old son in *The Marksman*. Cancelled in the wake of the Hungerford shootings, Ron Hutchinson's three-part series is being shown without cuts though the producer Sally Head is adamant that it is not a celebration of violence. She calls it "an exciting thriller with lots of hard humour". The cast also includes James Ellis, Richard Griffiths, Paul Angelis and Leslie Ash. BBC1, Friday, 9.30-10.30pm.



## GALLERIES

**BRILLIANT CAREER:** Adrian Wisniewski has enjoyed the kind of career young artists dream about. He was instantly acclaimed on graduating from Glasgow School of Art, his first London show sold out on the opening night, the Tate Gallery and New York's Museum of Modern Art have since bought works, and he is still only 29. An exhibition of recent pictures, in which swirls of bright pigment describe tormented characters acting out weird fantasies, is starting today at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool (051 207 0001).



## FILM

**INTRODUCING EMILY:** Emily Lloyd comes from an acting family, the Lloyd Packs, though that alone cannot explain her wonderful debut, aged 16, in *Wish You Were Here* (16). For this poignant comedy writer-director David Leland drew on the childhood of Cynthia Payne, the Streatham madam whose exploits inspired his script for *Personal Services*. But Lloyd creates a distinct personality for Lynda, the exuberant girl starved of affection in a post-war seaside town. Odeon Haymarket (01-839 7697) from Friday.

## THEATRE LONDON

**THE POINTLESS PLAYS:** Bernard Padden and Eric Presland direct *The Nervous Kitchens* company in a double bill of comedies without a point. Old Red Lion, St John Street, N1 (01-837 7818). Opens Tues.

**THE WAY TO GO HOME:** Paines Plough present Rona Munro's study of two Scottish women who meet in Istanbul and get caught up in an international crisis. As premiered at the Belgrade, Coventry. Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (01-730 2554). Previews Tues. Opens Wed. Until Dec 19.

## OUT OF TOWN

**BASILDOON:** Spy Society: Natural Theatre Company in a new show subtitled *Burgess, Philby and Maclean* (*The Musical*). Towngate Theatre (0268 23953). Opens Tues. Until Dec 5.

**BIRMINGHAM:** East: Snarling Beasts Theatre Company in Steven Berkoff's violent and vulgar satire. Repertory Studio (021 236 4455). Opens Mon.

**BIRMINGHAM:** Postman Pat's Adventures: Touring live show based on the television series, complete with full-size van and tractor, etc. Alexandra Theatre (021 643 1231). Opens Tues. Until Dec 5. Mats only.

**BROMLEY:** Blood Brothers: Kiki Dee leads in the touring production of Willy Russell's award-winning musical. Churchill Theatre (01-480 6677). Opens Mon. Until Dec 5.

**PLYMOUTH:** Black Love Songs/Irish Night: Temba Theatre Company present a double bill of American plays, by Ted Shine and Neil Fenderson. Major Road present a play with live music, by Garry Lyons and Patrick O'Sullivan. Drum Theatre Royal (0752 669555) & L & S Mon-Wed; N Thurs-Dec 5.

## CONCERTS

**LARSEN/LSO:** Carter Larsen is a particularly adventurous American pianist and it is a pity he is not making his London debut in something more daring than the Grieg Concerto. Richard Hickox also conducts the LSO in Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-828 8795, cc 01-638 8891). Tomorrow 7.30pm.

**DEMIDENKO RETURNS:** Another pianist, the Russian Nikolai Demidenko, made a brilliant impression on his first visit and this time, surprisingly, he offers an all-Schubert programme - Sonata D 568, Impromptus D 899 and "Wanderer". Fantasy. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141). Tomorrow 4pm.

**FIRST MESSIAH:** The first major London *Messiah* of the Christmas season comes from the Philharmonia Chorus, Orchestra and soloists under Simon Preston. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800). Wed 7.30pm.

**FOR STRADIVARI:** Marking the 250th anniversary of the death of Stradivari, distinguished violinists too numerous to mention but no player to his instrument solo in works by Vivaldi, J.S. and C.P.E. Bach, Haydn and Schubert with the ECO conducted by Sir Yehudi Menuhin. Barbican Centre, Wed 7.45pm.

**FRANCO-SPANISH EVENING:** The Philharmonia Orchestra is conducted by Antonio de Almeida in Lalo's *La Roi d'Ys* Overture, Chabrier's *Espana*, Falla's complete *Three-Cornered*. Theatre: Tony Patrick; Films: Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock: David Sinclair; Jazz: Clive Davis; Dance: John Percival; Galleries: David Lee; Photography: Mike Young; Walks: Greta Carlisle; Television, Radio and Books on TV: Peter Wymark; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.

## FILMS

**HOUSEKEEPING (PG):** Director Bill Forsyth's first American feature - a muted period drama adapted from Marilynne Robinson's novel about two young sisters growing up with a spinster aunt in post-war Washington State. With Christine Lahti, Sara Walker and Andrea Burdick. Renoir (01-837 8402), Chelsea (01-351 3742), from Fri.

**MY SWEET LITTLE VILLAGE (PG):** Pleasant Czech comedy about the quirks and intrigues of village life; a bucolic work from Jiri Menzel, director of *Closely Observed Trains*. Cannon Premiere (01-439 4470), from Fri.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**THE PHOTOGRAPHIC POSTCARD: 1900-1920:** In 1914 at the peak of the postcard boom 800 million cards were sent through the post in Britain. This exhibition documents the amazing lengths to which photographers had to go to feed this insatiable appetite. Subjects such as portraits, families, famous figures, landscapes and disasters were all included. Stills Gallery, 105 High Street, Edinburgh (031 557 1140).

**TIM PAGE:** Veteran Vietnam photographer, Tim Page is the first subject for this new photographic gallery. His earlier war pictures are complemented by photographs taken during more recent trips to the area. Exports, 715 Fulham Road, London SW3 (01-385 3550).

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE:** Tosca rules supreme at Covent Garden this week, conducted by Giuseppe Sinopoli and with Eva Marien and Peter Dinkley in a cast which also includes Ingrid Wixell's chilling Scarpa. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066). Mon 7.30pm and Sat 8pm.

**ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA:** A powerful revival of Jonathan Miller's *maffioso Rigoletto* tonight, Wed and Fri (7.30pm), with John Rainsley and Arthur Davies. Susan Bullock now takes the part of Gilda and Paul Daniel conducts. Plus the new *commedia dell'arte* influenced *Barber of Seville* (Mon, Thurs and Sat) with Alan Cole in the title role. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

**WELSH NATIONAL OPERA:** Elegant new production of *Fledermaus* (Thurs and Sat); a welcome revival of their Janacek's  *Cunning Little Vixen* (Wed); and two performances of their harum-scarum *Marriage of Figaro* (Tues and Fri). Mayflower Theatre, Southampton (0703 229771). All at 7.15pm.

**CARDIFF NEW OPERA GROUP:** Single performance of their Janacek double bill, *The Diary of One Who Disappeared* and *Savitr*, as part of the Cardiff Music Festival. St David's Hall, Cardiff (0222 372336). Mon 7.30pm.

## ROCK

**ALISON MOYET:** A voice to move mountains, but without the material to match. Tonight and tomorrow Manchester Apollo (061 273 3775) Tues and Wed Wembley Arena (01-902 1234); Tues Royal Centre, Nottingham (0602 482628); Thurs NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133); Fri, Manchester Apollo (061 273 3775).

## THEATRE

**TERENCE TRENT D'ARBY:** Outspoken pop-soul star; a minor sensation of 1987. Thurs Bournemouth International Centre (0202 297297); Fri Brixton Academy (01-326 1022).

## RADIO

**THE FOUR SEASONS:** First of four archive wallows to celebrate 40 years of *Sports Report* looks at 1948 with memories of Don Bradman, Joe Louis and Henry Cotton. Radio 2, today, 1.30-5pm.



● Cheryl Campbell (above) stars with Rosemary Leach in *The Long Fidelity*, the story of a French engineer's daughter living amid the violence and confusion of Vietnam after the Second World War (Radio 3, Tuesday, 8.30-9.40pm). Francoise Campo-Timal's play launches a Radio 3 French drama week that also includes *Beatrice Andry's Un coin de trop* in the original production which won the Italia Prize. Radio 3, Friday, 7.30-8.15pm.

**MARY STUART:** Hannah Gordon plays Mary Queen of Scots, with Barbara Jefford as Elizabeth I, in a free translation of Schiller's play by Stephen Spender. Radio 4, Mon, 7.45-9.45pm.

## JAZZ

**BETTY CARTER:** The inimitable singer brings another poised young trio to town. The support slot is occupied by the equally exciting Tommy Smith Quartet. Ronnie Scott's Club.

London W1 (01-439 0747), Mon-Sat.

**PESHKAR:** Indo-jazz fusions from the tabla player Zakir Hussain, leading a five piece ensemble. Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SE1 (01-828 3191) Tues; Warwick University Arts Centre (0203 417417) Wed; Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham (021 236 3889) Thurs; Dartington Great Hall (0803 863073) Fri.

**CHEVALIER BROTHERS:** The five quartet - a big hit on the dance circuit - serve up more of their London-inspired tunes on their fifth anniversary tour. Half Moon, London SW16 (01-788 2387) Thurs.

**BOBBY PORCELLI:** Acclaimed on the continent, the earthy American altoist is a rare visitor to this country. Bass Clef, London N1 (01-729 5476) Thurs; Flambards Wine Bar, Cambridge (0223 62550) Fri.

## DANCE

**LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE:** One more performance today of the programme with Siobhan Davies's *Red Steps*. Next week (Tues to Sat) two more works new to London, Daniel Ezralow's vampire ballet to Bertok music, and *Maybe Tomorrow* by Christopher Benneman and Paul Chamberlain. Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916).

**ROYAL BALLET:** Giselle returns this week with Lesley Collier and Mark Silver (Tues/Wed). *Swan Lake* is given tonight and the mixed bill with *The Dream*, *Galathea* and *The Concert* Fri. Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

**SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET:** *La Fille mal Gardée* at Southampton tonight and Oxford Tues to Thurs, then four recent productions including Binyamin's *Allegro Diverso* and the Britten *Gladiator* (Fri and Dec 5).

## GALLERIES

**MEXICAN FOLK ART:** Skull and skeletal imagery predominate in this show of craft objects used during the 'Day of the Dead' festival. Serpentine Gallery, London W2 (01-402 6075). From today.

**CLASS OF '87:** Works by five of this year's outstanding art college graduates including Sarah Tombs's impressive sculptures. Louise Hallett Gallery, London W2 (01-724 9865). From Thurs.

**IN ANOTHER WORLD:** An international selection of work by so-called outsider or primitive artists. Spike City Art Gallery (0782 202173). From today.

**CREATURES OF FABLE:** Zedek Ben David's light-hearted animal sculptures. Cartwright Hall, Bradford (0274 493313). From today.

**EIGHT BY EIGHT:** Work by 75 contemporary artists, none of which is bigger than eight inches square. Curwen Gallery, London W1 (01-535 1459). From Wed.

**CARTOONS AND ILLUSTRATIONS:** Works by a host of artists including Anthony Gross, Edward Ardizzone and Mel Calman. Sally Hunter Fine Art, London SW1 (01-235 0934). From Tues.

## TELEVISION

**NEW COUNTRY - GETTIN' TOUGH:** Andy Kershaw talks to the emerging stars of country music, including Randy Travis, Lyle Lovett and Nanci Griffiths. BBC2, Tues, 11.10pm-12.05am.

**A DAMNED SERIOUS BUSINESS:** Rex Hartson looks back on nearly 60 years as an actor in conversation with Patrick Garland. ITV, Wed, 9-10pm.

Mayflower, Southampton (0703 229771). Apollo, Oxford (0865 244544).

**YES, PRIME MINISTER:** Jim Hacker renews hostilities with Sir Humphrey in the marvellous Anthony Jay/Jonathan Lynn sitcom. BBC2, Thurs, 9-9.30pm.

**PANIC IN THE STREETS (1950):** Elia Kazan's taut thriller with Richard Widmark and Paul Douglas on the trail of criminals carrying a deadly virus. Channel 4, today, 1.05-2.50am.

**BIRDMAN OF ALCATRAZ (1962):** Burt Lancaster as the convicted murderer, Robert Stroud, who becomes a bird expert while in jail. BBC2, tomorrow, 10.15pm-12.45am.

**SLEEPER (1973):** Woody Allen wakes up 200 years in the future and unleashes an avalanche of gags, many of them inspired. BBC2, Mon, 9-10.25pm.



● Raymond Massey (above) in *Things to Come*, the spectacular 1936 Korda film from the novel by H.G. Wells. Among Wells's predictions for the future of mankind were war, plague, rebellion and the first rocket ship to the moon. The project was tailor made for a set designer and Korda employed one of the best, the American William Cameron Menzies, who also directed *Arzhan Bliss* wrote the score. BBC1, Monday, 6-7.30pm.

**LONDON BENEATH THE STREETS:** meet today, Blackfriars tube, 11am, £3.

**ALLEYS AND BYWAYS OF OLD LONDON:** meet today, St Paul's tube, 2pm, £2.25.

**FOOTSTEPS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES:** meet tomorrow, Covent Garden tube, 11.30am, £2.50.

**ARISTOCRATIC LONDON:** meet tomorrow, Green Park tube, 2pm, £2.50.

**THE HAPPY END:** Series of concerts by 22-strong band, from Brecht to Weill to township jazz. Titoni's Monk, Chartist hymns and traditional Irish jigs. Dec 15-19. ICA, The Mall, London SW1.

**LAURENCE OLIVIER:** 80th birthday tribute of portraits, photos and video film, including Dali's portrait of him.

**BOOKINGS FIRST CHANCE**

**LAST CHANCE**

**REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS**

**SATURDAY**

**BBBC1** 12.05-1.00pm: *News*. 1.05-1.30pm: *News*. 1.35-1.50pm: *News*. 1.55-2.00pm: *News*. 2.05-2.20pm: *News*. 2.25-2.40pm: *News*. 2.45-3.00pm: *News*. 3.05-3.20pm: *News*. 3.25-3.40pm: *News*. 3.45-4.00pm: *News*. 4.05-4.20pm: *News*. 4.25-4.40pm: *News*. 4.45-5.00pm: *News*. 5.05-5.20pm: *News*. 5.25-5.40pm: *News*. 5.45-6.00pm: *News*. 6.05-6.20pm: *News*. 6.25-6.40pm: *News*. 6.45-7.00pm: *News*. 7.05-7.20pm: *News*. 7.25-7.40pm: *News*. 7.45-8.00pm: *News*. 8.05-8.20pm: *News*. 8.25-8.40pm: *News*. 8.45-9.00pm: *News*. 9.05-9.20pm: *News*. 9.25-9.40pm: *News*. 9.45-10.00pm: *News*. 10.05-10.20pm: *News*. 10.25-10.40pm: *News*. 10.45-11.00pm: *News*. 11.05-11.20pm: *News*. 11.25-11.40pm: *News*. 11.45-12.00pm: *News*.

**ANGLIA** As London except: 12.05-1.00pm: *News*. 1.05-1.30pm: *News*. 1.35-1.50pm: *News*. 1.55-2.00pm: *News*. 2.05-2.20pm: *News*. 2.25-2.40pm: *News*. 2.45-3.00pm: *News*. 3.05-3.20pm: *News*. 3.25-3.40pm: *News*. 3.45-4.00pm: *News*. 4.05-4.20pm: *News*. 4.25-4.40pm: *News*. 4.45-5.00pm: *News*. 5.05-5.20pm: *News*. 5.25-5.40pm: *News*. 5.45-6.00pm: *News*. 6.05-6.20pm: *News*. 6.25-6.40pm: *News*. 6.45-7.00pm: *News*. 7.05-7.20pm: *News*. 7.25-7.40pm: *News*. 7.45-8.00pm: *News*. 8.05-8.20pm: *News*. 8.25-8.40pm: *News*. 8.45-9.00pm: *News*. 9.05-9.20pm: *News*. 9.25-9.40pm: *News*. 9.45-10.00pm: *News*. 10.05-10.20pm: *News*. 10.25-10.40pm: *News*. 10.45-11.00pm: *News*. 11.05-11.20pm: *News*. 11.25-11.40pm: *News*. 11.45-12.00pm: *News*.

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**GRANADA** As London except: 12.05-1.00pm: *News*. 1.05-1.30pm: *News*. 1.35-1.50pm: *News*. 1.55-2.00pm: *News*. 2.05-2.20pm: *News*. 2.25-2.40pm: *News*. 2.45-3.00pm: *News*. 3.05-3.20pm: *News*. 3.25-3.40pm: *News*. 3.45-4.00pm: *News*. 4.05-4.20pm: *News*. 4.25-4.40pm: *News*. 4.45-5.00pm: *News*. 5.05-5.20pm: *News*. 5.25-5.40pm: *News*







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Executive Editor  
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1308.2 (-6.2)  
FT-SE 100  
1651.8 (-9.1)  
Bargains  
16798 (17295)  
USM (Datastream)  
133.63 (+0.33)

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.8060 (+0.0120)  
W German mark  
2.9916 (+0.0001)  
Trade-weighted  
76.0 (+0.3)

GA buys  
estate  
agencies

General Accident, the Scottish composite insurance company, has increased its estate agency network to 421 branches through the acquisition of Stuart Wyse Ogilvie Estates for £12.8 million.

Stuart Wyse is the largest group of estate agencies in Scotland with 33 branches and net assets of about £1.5 million. GA is issuing 1.5 million new shares to pay for the purchase and the balance will be met with £1.6 million unsecured loan notes and cash.

Dominion rise

Dominion International Group is maintaining its interim dividend at 2.5p a share after reporting pretax profits of £3.17 million for the six months ended September 30, compared with £2.73 million on turnover of £31.3 million (£39.2 million).

Flat brew

Brewmaker, the home wine and beer group, made a pretax profit of £28,000 in the first half of this year, against £67,000 last time. Sales were down from £32 million to £25 million. There is no dividend but the company hopes for a final dividend.

Bulgin ahead

AF Bulgin & Co, the electronic and electrical components manufacturer, made pretax profits of £291,000 for the six months to July 31, against £205,000 in the same period last year. No interim dividend will be paid.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	1942.84 (-4.31)
Tokyo	23288.62 (-18.88)
Hong Kong	2194.18 (+14.80)
Amsterdam	213.3 (-1.3)
Sydney	1321.4 (+0.7)
Frankfurt	1389.8 (+10.4)
Brussels	3802.5 (-27.3)
Paris CAC	298.5 (change)
Zurich	344.8 (-1.2)
FT All-Share	1308.2 (-6.2)
FT 100	1651.8 (-9.1)
FT Gold Mines	320.0 (-10.9)
FT Fixed Interest	96.48 (+0.52)
FT Govt Secs	88.96 (+0.15)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Bases	8110 (+100)
Blue Circle	8450 (+200)
Brit. Aerospace	7010 (+340)
Tate & Lyle	5410 (+150)
Thorn EMI	5150 (+475)
Siebel	3820 (+180)
Wellcome	3820 (+180)
Parish	6250 (+250)
Henderson Admin.	6000 (+250)
Mersey Docks	3860 (+160)
FALLS:	
Blue Circle	3190 (-100)
Reubens	4290 (-100)
Brit. Aerospace	3000 (-130)
Estates & General	1150 (-300)
Harvester Drives	1750 (-100)
Collo Group	1350 (-350)
Indecon	5750 (-120)
Barton Transport	7250 (-500)
Samuelson Group	1130 (-850)
Deegan Holdings	7350 (-200)
Slyd	2150 (-100)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	9%
3-month interbank	9.8 1/8%
3-month eligible bills	8 1/8-8 1/2%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	8 1/2%
Federal Funds	6 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.63-5.61%
30-year bonds	9 1/2-9 7/8%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£ \$1.8060	£ \$1.8105
£ DM2.9916	£ DM1.6540
£ Sfr12.4562	£ Sfr11.3580
£ FF10.1813	£ FF5.6305
£ Yen241.28	£ Yen133.70
£ Index:76.0	£ Index:95.4
ECU 0.689138	SDR 0.756987

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$477.80 pm \$478.40	
close \$478.25-478.75	(£264.75-265.25)
New York:	
Comex \$478.80-479.30	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan.)	pm \$17.90bbl (\$17.90)
* Denotes latest trading price	
Best Summary	26
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Tokyo licence  
goes to C&W

Japan to confirm  
deal next week

By David Watts and Colin Northwood

Cable and Wireless's hard-fought battle to enter the Japanese market, which at one time threatened to cause a fierce dispute between Britain and Japan, will end on Monday when Tokyo gives the C&W consortium an operating licence.

Official Japanese resistance to the British telecommunications group's bid provoked outrage in the Commons earlier this year and led to intervention on C&W's behalf by an angry Mrs Thatcher.

The Government saw the case as an acid test of Japan's willingness to open its market to real competition from foreign companies.

In response to yesterday's announcement, a Department of Trade and Industry spokeswoman said: "We are naturally delighted whenever a market is opened up to international competition."

The Telecommunications Council of Japan's Ministry of Post and Telecommunications announced yesterday that it had recommended granting licences to International Digital Communications (IDC), a ¥24 billion

(£100 million) company in which C&W holds a 16.8 per cent share, and the rival International Telecommunications Japan (ITT), which has fought tooth and nail to prevent foreign access.

C&W warmly welcomed the council's decision, but declined with its usual caution to make a formal statement. Mr Paul Woodrow, the company

spokesman in London, said C&W preferred to wait until the Japanese authorities had actually granted the licence.

It has taken a year since IDC's feasibility study was founded to secure the licence. The Japanese government tried for months to persuade the consortium to merge, claiming there would be insufficient business to support a total of three companies (including Kokusai Denshin Denwa, the existing monopoly holder) in the market.

Merger talks were called off last month because the philosophies of the two rivals were incompatible while C&W will lay IDC's own trans-Pacific te-

lecommunications cable, ITT will lease circuits from KDD. C&W says the IDC consortium will be able to undercut both its rivals when services start in 1989 by using a shorter, high-tech cable that will be able to handle up to 11,000 circuits.

Intervention by Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan, and a period of rapidly-increasing trade surpluses made Japan vulnerable to foreign pressure. Internal pressures for a liberalized, more modern and cheaper communications service, with the intervention of such Japanese groups as the Toyota Motor Company, also played an important role.

Yesterday's decision was considered almost inevitable after Mr Noboru Takeshita, Japan's new prime minister, last week put his authority behind the two consortia.

Government officials said after a cabinet meeting that Mr Takeshita, wishing to set the right tone in relations with Japan's main trading partners, had made clear to his new Minister of Post and Telecommunications that the licences should be awarded.

Late demand for Eurotunnel

By Lawrence Lever

The Eurotunnel share issue looked as if it would be slightly undersubscribed last night after all the share applications had been counted.

The offer closed yesterday morning without the stampede associated with privatization issues before the stock market crash.

Nevertheless, the offering of 101 million units, comprising one British and one French share in the Channel tunnel project, appears to have been popular with private investors.

Last-minute demand is believed to have taken the number of applications from private investors comfortably over 100,000, with some sources estimating up to 160,000 share applications from individuals. The average investment among individual investors is estimated at more than £1,000.

A small undersubscription of the £533 million British share offering does not mean there will automatically be a call on the underwriters. If the parallel public offering of Eurotunnel shares in France is oversubscribed, then any unsatisfied French demand can be met from Britain.

The French offer closed at 6pm yesterday. It is structured differently from the British

offer in that the French banks take up the shares and distribute them through their branch networks.

The French and British share offerings have been accompanied by a £64 million international share placing. The £750 million total in equity financing had to be successfully completed before Eurotunnel could draw on a £5 billion syndicated loan

facility, provided by a consortium of 198 international banks, and start building the tunnel.

Privately, Eurotunnel and its advisers, including Mr Alastair Morton, the co-chairman, were said to be delighted with the result of the share offering.

Since the market downturn several rights issues have flopped, with most of the new shares offered being taken up by underwriters.

The precise basis of allocation of the Eurotunnel shares will be announced on Monday. Drilling of the tunnel from Britain will start at Shakespeare cliff in Folkestone on Tuesday.

Share dealings are due to start at 8.30am on Thursday, December 10. If there has been a call on the underwriters, it is likely that the shares will open at a slight discount.

Tax probe  
at Boesky  
company

By Our City Staff

The Inland Revenue is investigating the tax status of Cambrian & General Securities, the investment trust which was the principal British vehicle for the share dealings of Mr Ivan Boesky, the disgraced US arbitrageur.

Cambrian's accounts, published yesterday, show that the tax position of the investment trust for the year ending September 1986 has not yet been agreed with the Revenue. Cambrian says that "substantial liabilities to British taxation would arise" if it does not secure Revenue approval as an investment trust.

The trust has made provisions against any loss it might incur as a result of the Revenue investigation and the class actions. These have not been quantified - suggesting that they are not material. Cambrian is proposing a winding-up resolution, as it is required to do under its articles of association, but recommends its rejection as a better price could be obtained once the legal and tax uncertainties are cleared up.

Haslam condemns  
coal imports plan

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Sir Robert Haslam, chairman of British Coal, has rejected suggestions that a privatized electricity industry could save £750 million a year by switching to imported coal.

His statement, made last night in Sheffield, came only 24 hours after the Central Electricity Generating Board revealed plans for a coal handling terminal at Southampton which will be the first in Britain capable of handling cargoes from large ocean-going coal carriers.

Sir Robert said: "We keep on hearing suggestions that the electricity industry could save £750 million a year if it were 'free' to switch to imported coal. It has recently been repeated so often that there is a danger of it becoming an established fact. It is not true."

He said that the CEBG and British Coal have an understanding that British Coal will match the delivered price for foreign coal - but that is based on the present arrangement under which large ocean-going coalers unload at Rotterdam and cargoes are shipped in

smaller vessels to Britain. He said: "Steam coal in the international market amounts to only 4 per cent of total world steam coal output. The present low international price reflects the gross over investment in developing new mines dedicated to long haul seaborne trade following 1973's dramatic oil price rise."

British Coal has decided to fight back against the CEBG, which is in the run up to privatization.

privatization is preparing the ground for the political consequences of increased coal imports. The CEBG takes the view that after privatization it will be free to buy on the open market.

However, British Coal feels that it can develop a formula which will link its prices to what it calls the "sustainable" international price rather than the rapidly fluctuating price on the Rotterdam market.

British Coal is itself an eventual candidate for privatization.

Government doubles limit on money market borrowing

Boost for building societies

By Richard Thomson  
Banking Correspondent

The Government yesterday doubled the amount building societies are allowed to borrow from wholesale money markets, in a surprise move that went beyond what the societies had sought. The increase will boost the societies' ability to lead on mortgages and give them greater flexibility in funding.

The societies were jubilant when Mr Peter Lilley, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, announced that they would be able to borrow up to 40 per cent of their liabilities from wholesale markets, instead of the present 20 per cent, from the start of next year. The Building Societies Act allows for such an increase, but the industry had been pressing for an increase to only 30 per cent.

Mr Lilley said: "Setting the figure at 40 per cent now should give societies a more certain basis for their long-term

planning." He said the present limit hindered societies from competing for mortgage business against institutions such as banks, which have no borrowing restriction.

At present, the societies borrow an average of 12 per cent of their money from the wholesale market, currently worth £17.2 billion, although some have borrowed up to 17 per cent of their liabilities from this source. In theory, if they borrowed the full 40 per cent they could take more than £50 billion from wholesale sources.

Mr Mark Beale, director general of the Building Societies Association, said: "It shows the Government is willing to adapt the legislation as circumstances require. The limit is now so high that no society should have to worry about it for at least four years."

The societies pressed for an increase because of the falling inflow of retail

deposits over the last few years as competition from banks and privatization issues siphoned off the public's savings. But the need for more wholesale borrowing has become less pressing recently because more money has flowed into societies since the stock market crash.

The new limit also broadens the societies' funding options. Borrowing wholesale money is currently about half a percentage point cheaper than borrowing retail funds. The big clearing banks typically borrow more than half their money from the cheap wholesale markets.

The 40 per cent limit will not apply to every society, however. As now, the Building Societies Commission, which regulates the industry, will set an upper limit for each society depending on its strength and management ability.



Before the music died: five years ago Debbie Moore brought glamour to the Exchange

Debbie Moore departs  
with Pineapple chunk

By Our City Staff

Miss Debbie Moore, the former model and queen of the aerobics fitness craze, is dancing - or perhaps limping - away from the Pineapple Group which she brought to the stock market in 1982 in a fanfare of publicity.

For the past three years the Pineapple dance studios have lost hundreds of thousands of pounds as the fitness craze fizzled out. Miss Moore is now buying the three London dance studios from Pineapple Studios on the Unlisted Securities Market, scandalizing stockbrokers by appearing on the trading floor of the Exchange in a leotard on the first day of dealings.

The company itself is in a healthy position, however, having diversified away from being purely a dance studio company. Led by Mr Peter Bain, a former director of the Hawley industrial group, it has become a marketing services company operating in areas such as sales promotions, exhibitions and consumer goods.

The company issued a state-

ment yesterday, saying: "It has become increasingly clear that the original Pineapple business does not sit comfortably within the enlarged group."

It added that the business had made losses for the last three years and its disposal would allow the group "to be seen more clearly, both financially and operationally."

All this is a far cry from the fitness-crazy days of November 1982 when Miss Moore launched Pineapple Dance Studios on the Unlisted Securities Market, scandalizing stockbrokers by appearing on the trading floor of the Exchange in a leotard on the first day of dealings.

The shares which were placed with City institutions at 52p closed on the first day at 96p. Fifteen months later Miss Moore was voted Business Woman of the Year.

The company, which was founded by Miss Moore and Mr Norris Masters, then her

husband, was in the forefront of the "glamour stocks" that were attracted to going public by using the USM.

However, its success was short-lived. The share price and profits fell with boardroom rows and the downturn in the aerobics boom. Mr Masters resigned, and Mr Bain came into the group in 1985.

He orchestrated the conversion of the company into a marketing services group which turned in profits of £1.25 million in its last financial year. The company is now valued on the stock market at about £12 million and Miss Moore owns 7 per cent of the shares.

"It is a totally amicable parting of the ways," Mr Bain said. Touche Ross, the accountant, is still working on the price Miss Moore will pay for the London studios and the Pineapple fashion business, which made losses of £124,000 last year.

Siebe advance confounds critics

By Colin Campbell

Siebe, the multi-national controls, garage equipment and safety products group, yesterday confounded its critics and reported a 31.8 per cent advance in net interim earnings a share after a strong advance in half-time profits.

Analysts had feared an earnings dilution in the wake of recent rights issues by the group. In the event, Siebe turned out net interim earnings of 19.9p a share, compared with 15.1p a share in the first half of the previous

financial year, despite a double share issue.

Siebe, reflecting recent acquisitions and organic growth, achieved a turnover of £483.8 million in the six months ended September, compared with £229.2 million, and a pretax profit of £50 million against £19.7 million.

The interim dividend rises from 2.345p to 2.7p a share, and on the stock market the shares rose by 14p to 283p.

Mr Barrie Stephens, the chief executive officer, said

Siebe was not ashamed of its presence in North America, nor of the group's recent American acquisitions.

Siebe had concluded significant contracts with China, won a £2 million Sizewell B order, and was developing its various interests on a broad front, he added.

The second half year has started with further good progress throughout the company, and the board looks forward to this trend continuing.

Temps, page 27

Time to join  
the Foreign Legion?

Since 16th October the FT All Share Index has dropped by 30%. But before you decide investors don't stand a fighting chance, consider this.

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# Midland unveils business exchanges with Hongkong

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Midland Bank yesterday unveiled details of a series of business exchanges with the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation. The move follows the agreement under which the Far Eastern bank will take a 14.9 per cent stake in Midland.

The transfer of responsibility for businesses in Europe, Asia and Canada — the first stage in rationalizing the bank's operations worldwide — were outlined in a circular to Midland shareholders. Further details may be announced before the extraordinary shareholders' meeting on December 21 to vote on the deal.

Midland will take over the operation and servicing — not

the assets — of all Hongkong's branches and offices in Britain and eight other European countries, including its trade finance business between Europe and Asia.

It will take over Hongkong's clearing business in London and its Jersey-based private banking operation and buy the European subsidiaries of Concord, Hongkong's asset finance group.

Hongkong will run Midland's operations in Bangkok, Singapore and Taipei and will buy Midland's Toronto-based subsidiary, which last year had profits of Can\$3 million (£1.5 million). This will be merged with Hongkong Bank of Can-

ada, the tenth largest in the country.

Midland will retain its offices in leading financial centres and keep worldwide control of Thomas Cook, the travellers' cheque company.

Further co-operation is still being explored in areas such as aerospace, ship-finance, insurance broking, property lending, travellers' cheques and private banking.

No agreement has yet been worked out on investment banking. Some co-operation, however, between Greenwell Montagu, Midland's securities and merchant banking arm, and James Capel, owned by

Hongkong, is planned. Midland will ask shareholders to grant management powers to develop the links. The agreement with Hongkong, which will inject £383 million of new capital into Midland, is regarded as the first step towards a full merger.

Sir Kit McMahon, Midland's chairman, said the agreement had three main objectives. Because of the complementary geographical spread of the banks, there were strategic and cost advantages in rationalizing overseas operations; it gave Midland much-needed extra capital; and it ended the unremitting takeover speculation surrounding Midland.

## News Corp in Fairfax deal

From Richard Bentley, Sydney

The News Corporation Ltd is expected to become the dominant shareholder in the national news agency, Australian Association Press, and the country's leading newspaper supplier, Australian Newsprint Mills Ltd.

The deal, worth an estimated Aus\$275 million (£108 million), was apparently negotiated by Mr Warwick Fairfax, head of John Fairfax Ltd, and Mr Rupert Murdoch, chief executive of The News Corporation.

Mr Fairfax is believed to be selling most of a 43 per cent stake in ANM and a 40 per cent holding in two AAP companies. These assets are owned by John Fairfax, the Sydney media group.

Mr Fairfax's private company, Tryant Proprietary Ltd, is about to buy out majority shareholders in John Fairfax for Aus\$2.5 billion.

In a statement to the stock exchange yesterday, he said Tryant had acceptances for 98.2 per cent of John Fairfax's shares from more than 75 per cent of shareholders. This enables it to acquire compulsorily the remainder, once the takeover offer expires on December 8, and Mr Fairfax told the exchange it intended to do this.

Media analysts believe Mr Fairfax is anxious to reduce Tryant's debt to find the buy-back, initiated to keep the Sydney Morning Herald, the 156-year-old morning broadsheet, in Fairfax hands.

After disposing of other big assets, principally the Australian Financial Review, the only daily financial newspaper, it was estimated that Mr Fairfax owed Aus\$700 million. He had intended to raise Aus\$275 million by re-selling David Syme & Company, a John Fairfax subsidiary, whose chief asset is The Age, Melbourne's morning broadsheet and the country's most profitable newspaper.

The prospect, however, of not being able to protect The Age from a market raid prompted him to cancel this move.

Mr Robert Holmes à Court, the beleaguered Perth businessman, bought the Australian Financial Review, The Times on Sunday, the Macquarie Broadcasting Network and other assets for Aus\$475 million. Mr Holmes à Court holds 7.1 per cent in ANM and some analysts believe he may sell this stake to The News Corporation.

## COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

### C&W's giant step on the global highway

Although the formal announcement will not come before Monday, it is all but certain that the consortium of which Cable and Wireless is a leading member will be granted a licence to operate an international telecommunications business in Japan. The new Prime Minister, Mr Noboru Takeshita, and a new Minister for Posts and Telecommunications, Mr Masaaki Nakayama, have opted for the expected compromise of granting licences to the rival consortia which now face the prospect of competing with the existing monopoly purveyor of international telecommunications services, KDD.

However tough the going may be — and Japanese attitudes do not all change overnight — the Tokyo decision is a tribute to C&W's diplomacy, perseverance and technical excellence. The cable it will lay across the Pacific will form a vital part of the imaginative global digital highway, which will underline the company's place in communications history.

The outcome is a personal triumph for Sir Eric Sharp, who would be the first to acknowledge, however, the powerful political support C&W has received from Mrs Thatcher and the key role of C. Itoh, C&W's main Japanese partner.

Though on a different scale, Plessey's decision to acquire Ferranti's semiconductor business for £30 million is also significant. On two counts. At a stroke, it almost doubles the turnover of Plessey Semiconductors and makes PS the market leader in Europe, though still only ninth in the world; and it demonstrates the new mood at Plessey — decisive and active in driving the group, by acquisition as well as organic growth, down clearly identified paths.

Ferranti's sales of Application Specific Integrated Circuits last year were £66.2 million (at little profit). Plessey has estimated that the ASIC sector of the world's integrated circuit market is about 35 per cent of a total market worth \$17 billion. It is expected by 1990 to rise to 50 per cent of a \$52 billion market.

The Ferranti deal is in line with Plessey thinking whereas taking over a "commodity" chip business like Immos (from Thorn) — a recently rumoured development that has made Plessey followers anxious — is not. The risk is that the American and Japanese giants — Motorola, LSI Logic, NEC, Fujitsu — will turn "custom made" chips into a low margin, fiercely competitive commodity-type market. Size is important, as Ferranti has discovered to its cost: from a position of technical leadership in the gate arrays market in the 1970s, it has now been forced out altogether.

Plessey has chosen to get on rather than get out, conscious of the fact that it must capture much more business in Europe and the United States through a determined development of electronic components, systems and defence. As Sir John Clark, chairman of Plessey, said on Thursday: "The whole purpose of this exercise is to develop growth in Europe and the US."

### Tunnel below par

High hopes held out for the final and most important stage of the Eurotunnel flotation were torpedoed by the crash of '87 and the heavy losses suffered by luckless underwriters of the mammoth BP issue. Yesterday's news that the issue was undersubscribed should be seen in that context. It was clear from the near disaster of Equity 2 last year that long-term professional investors were by no means convinced that the risk and rewards of backing the tunnel were sufficiently evenly balanced. Their reluctance to take part in what was a tiny share sale has been misinterpreted as short-termism, cowardice or worse. In fact, it was nothing of the kind. Those who declined to take part even after arm-twisting sessions round the Bank of England were not expressing a view about backing long-term and risky investments. There was a far more pertinent objection — the numbers simply did not stack up.

Alastair Morton and the new management team he brought in earlier in the year did a great deal to rescue a dire situation. Nevertheless, Mr Morton was unable to dispel a feeling among sophisticated institutions that the more attractive projections offered to them during the run-up to the crucial share sale were a little too good to be true. Income forecasts have been boosted by as much as 40 per cent compared with those offered a year ago. And even though Eurotunnel trimmed its expectations of cross-Channel market volume in the year 2003 by 9 per cent, it reckoned that its own share would be some 12 per cent higher.

This consistent leveraging up of the crucial passenger and freight forecasts at each stage of the project has raised eyebrows in more than a few quarters. Even then, the projected returns still leave an insufficient premium over alternative investments to be entirely conclusive.

At the end of the day, backing Eurotunnel with equity investment required an act of faith. That act may well prove to be handsomely rewarded. But it was not a comfortable or defensible decision for those entrusted with stewardship of other people's savings.

## Fuel group cuts loss to £1.85m

By Our City Staff

Burnett & Hallamshire, the troubled coal-mining and property group, made reduced pre-tax losses of £1.85 million in the half year to the end of September, against £3.1 million previously.

The post-interest loss on continuing businesses was £583,000 against £243,000 and on discontinued businesses £737,000 (£1.09 million).

First-half investment in new plant and equipment should bring positive benefits in the second half through improvements in efficiency, the company said. Interest payable on continuing businesses remained heavy, at £2.8 million against £2.9 million in the previous first half.

The recently announced sale of Rexco, the loss-making smokeless fuel subsidiary, for £2 million, and other asset realizations will allow B&H to pay its bankers all rolled-up interest by the end of the present financial year.

## Nestor coming to market

By Alison Endie

Nestor-BNA, the healthcare services company, is coming to the stock market via a placing by Hambros Bank of nearly 7 million shares at 75p.

Nestor was owned by Eagle Star until last April, when a management team, headed by Mr Michael Rogers, bought it. It owns the largest nursing agency in Britain, manages independent nursing homes and hospitals, and runs a deputising service for doctors.

The company has 30,000 qualified nurses on its books and a further 10,000 auxiliaries and carers. About 40 per cent of its nurses work in the National Health Service but, contrary to popular belief, they earn less than permanent staff, being paid the same hourly wage but without holiday or other benefits. Nestor's nurses receive about £4 of the average £5 an hour the NHS pays the company.

Nestor, which delayed its float plans by a day to allow itself time to read the White Paper Promoting Better Health, welcomed the proposals in the paper.



Michael Rogers: the Nestor head who led last year's buyout

## SAS profits soar to record £164.5m

By Colin Narborough

As the Office of Fair Trading scrutinizes its approach to the troubled British Caledonian group, Scandinavian Airlines System, the semi-state airline owned by Sweden, Norway and Denmark, yesterday reported record profits.

Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of the OFT, under pressure to make his assessment of a possible partial bid by SAS before B-Cal has to decide on British Airways' formal £153 million offer, is

likely to report his conclusions to the Department of Trade and Industry next week.

The OFT launched its investigation after SAS said it was interested in a possible stake in B-Cal, probably in the region of 40 per cent, plus a substantial cash injection.

The Scandinavians have been tight-lipped about the B-Cal question since their statement this week after talks in London between Mr Jan Carlzon, the SAS president, British regulatory authorities

and potential underwriters.

The SAS group, comprising the airline, hotels and services, raised pre-tax profits in the year to end-September by 10 per cent to a record 1.7 billion Swedish kronor (£164.5 million).

The Norwegians and Danes each have 30 and Sweden 30 of half the airline, with the balance held by private investors. The shares are quoted on the three Scandinavian stock exchanges. The structure has

not changed since SAS was formed in 1946, and there has been little debate about privatizing the state holdings.

Turnover rose 10 per cent to Kr23.9 billion, despite a freeze on air travel prices forced on SAS by the Nordic governments. The airline arm, SAS's core business, boosted its profits to Kr1.5 billion from Kr1.3 billion, before extraordinary items, on a turnover of Kr17.5 billion after the previous year's Kr16.5 billion.

## TEMPUS

### Siebe stands to win new friends with share holding operation

If Siebe, with its reputation for issuing paper the way some people throw confetti, really is serious about holding its issued share base for a while — thereby indicating there are no more rights issues in the wings — it has a chance of being better loved.

The interim results statement for the six months to end-September contains several encouraging features, notably that there has been no earnings dilution, despite earlier fears, and the pre-tax profits increase from £19.7 million to £50 million is very satisfactory.

There were first-time contributions from Robertshaw Controls, Ranco Incorporated and WH Salisbury, which brought in £26.9 million; the CompAir companies contributed £9.13 million, or a 19.9 per cent increase; and the rest of the group advanced by 16.3 per cent.

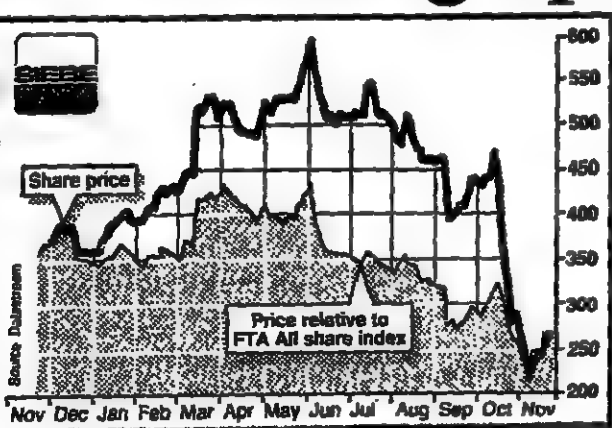
Siebe has sold its footwear companies and can therefore concentrate on the core businesses it knows best. And, the acquisition of Barber-Colman last month, bringing the group a number of controls-related skills, all helps point to a strong year-end.

In present stock market conditions, however, high exposure to the American economy does not go down well. The geographical sales pie chart is dominated by North America, and this slice will grow with the latest acquisition.

Longer term, as other areas expand and markets calm, North America will not be such a worry. Meanwhile, Siebe makes no excuses for its presence in America, pointing out that it should be recession-protected and that there are large markets to be tapped.

Gearing, which 12 months ago stood at 128 per cent, and at the March year-end at 118 per cent, is now looking a more healthy 53 per cent. The interest burden has thus fallen from £30 million to £14 million.

Digestion of acquisitions and concentration on organic growth, rather than ac-



quisition, is likely to be Siebe's immediate priority, but positive year-on-year growth looks assured, with a follow-through rise in net earnings a share.

Pre-tax profits of £110 million against £62.1 million should be within easy reach, making the shares at 283p, up 14p yesterday, look cheap on a seven times rating, although they will undoubtedly run into state bulls on the way up.

### Nestor-BNA

The reverberations from Black Monday are beginning to recede and companies are again seeking stock market listings.

Nestor-BNA had to trim its pre-crash expectations, raising only £4 million of new money instead of the £6 million it originally wanted. But its placing was still healthily oversubscribed on a capitalization of £26.4 million against a management buy-out price in April last year of £15.3 million. The 16 institutions involved in the buy-out must be pleased.

The reasons for obtaining a listing remain unchanged by the market turbulence. Nestor wants to expand by acquisition and some of the companies in its sights prefer to be paid in paper not cash to avoid capital gains tax liabilities. The proceeds of the issue will reduce high borrowings taken out to finance the buy-out, but only £4 million of the £6 million borrowings will now be eliminated.

Nestor's operating profits have risen steadily in the past three years, although pre-tax profits have been dampened by heavy interest charges. Excluding interest on the loans to be repaid, pre-tax profits are forecast to reach £3 million this year.

The prospective p/e ratio at 13.5 is not cheap, but is much more modest than it would have been a few weeks ago and is still modest by comparison with other quoted employment agencies.

Although Nestor is only in healthcare at the moment, it is prepared to consider non-healthcare acquisitions.

The three existing divisions are also all expected to grow. BNA, the agency nursing division and by far the biggest profits earner, plans to extend its geographical coverage in a fragmented market. It presently has about 10 per cent of the National Health Service agency market and somewhat more of the private market.

The prospective yield is 3.37 per cent.

### Dominion Int

Dominion International Group, which as a perk in the 1970s and before it sold its funeral interests, used to offer shareholders discounts on burials, is assuming a new role in life.

It is selling off the old and non-performing interests and making a move into the wide world of financial services.

The move is already hav-

ing an impact on profit figures, and there is more to come.

For the six months ended September 30 pre-tax profit is up from £2.73 million to £3.17 million with financial services making all the running.

There was a first time contribution from its United States leasing business, Transnational, and although there was a poor showing from Southwest Resources, its 59 per cent-owned subsidiary, that company's interest in the States Petroleum group did manage to increase its profits from £10,000 to £460,000.

Dominion has so far realized £20 million from property sales in Britain, and talks are now in progress to sell the holding in Southwest.

If successfully concluded, that could mean an impact of between £20 million and £24 million to Dominion as cash is brought in and borrowings go out.

A fresh boardroom team steps into place on January 1, and though the redirection of the group will take time, Dominion has at least identified the areas into which it wants to expand — with the specialist, niche areas very much in mind.

The objective is to get into core businesses with stronger cash flow and earnings growth.

Yesterday's market reaction to results was to see the shares start to pick up from the dead. In the recent overall stakeout in the stock market they fell from 134p to 75p. Yesterday they rose 3p to 81p.

If profits before tax move into the £8.5 million region this financial year, it would not show much change from the previous year.

But shareholders should be looking for a resumed profits record during the following year.

If evidence continues to mount that financial services are making Dominion tick, the shares could have seen their worst.

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\* APR shown is typical for an endorsement loan over 25 years.



[illegible]

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

[illegible]

150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0



\*\*\*\*\*

**Portfolio - Gold -**

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share Price
1	Electronic Rentals	Electronics	1.00
2	Bordwick	Food	1.00
3	Packery	Food	1.00
4	Bulmer (H F)	Breweries	1.00
5	Tennison	Industrial A-D	1.00
6	Coatite	Chemicals	1.00
7	Wimpey (George)	Building, Roads	1.00
8	Fisher (James)	Shipping	1.00
9	Nat Am Bk	Banking	1.00
10	Berley Inv	Industrial A-D	1.00
11	FR Group	Motor, Aircraft	1.00
12	Fobel	Industrial E-K	1.00
13	Dale Elec	Electronics	1.00
14	Frederick	Oil & Gas	1.00
15	Alday	Industrial A-D	1.00
16	Countrywide	Building, Roads	1.00
17	Herland Simon	Electronics	1.00
18	Cape Ind	Industrial A-D	1.00
19	Wood (SW)	Industrial A-D	1.00
20	Cook (Wm)	Industrial A-D	1.00
21	Bejan	Food	1.00
22	Uni Scientific	Electronics	1.00
23	Hutchinson	Industrial E-K	1.00
24	BOC (as)	Electronics	1.00
25	VPI Co	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
26	Assured (as)	Electronics	1.00
27	Glencon (as)	Building, Roads	1.00
28	Rowntree (as)	Food	1.00
29	Chrym	Industrial A-D	1.00
30	First Leisure	Leisure	1.00
31	Central Broadcom	Textiles	1.00
32	Telfer	Industrial S-Z	1.00
33	Birmid Quaker	Industrial A-D	1.00
34	Concoratic	Industrial A-D	1.00
35	Diploma	Industrial A-D	1.00
36	Hopkinson	Industrial E-K	1.00
37	Evered	Industrial E-K	1.00
38	Tricon	Oil & Gas	1.00
39	Bank Of Scotland	Banking	1.00
40	Telephone Rentals	Electronics	1.00
41	Grenville Whitley	Breweries	1.00
42	Kendrew (A)	Industrial E-K	1.00
43	Ladbrokes (as)	Leisure	1.00
44	Times Newspapers Ltd	Print, Adv	1.00

Please take into account any minus signs

**Weekly Dividend**

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £3,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

**BRITISH FUNDS**

High	Low	Open	Close	%

**SHORTS (Under Five Years)**

100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000

**FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS**

100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000

**OVER FIFTEEN YEARS**

100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000

**UNDATED**

100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000

**INDEX-LINKED**

100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000

**BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP**

100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000

1500

**STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES**

**Quiet end to week**

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 23. Dealings end December 4. Settlement day December 7. Settlement day December 14.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 28)

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**Portfolio - Gold -**

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WEEKLY DIVIDEND £8,000

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**OVERSEAS TRADERS**

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING**

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**INSURANCE**

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**LEISURE**

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**PROPERTY**

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**SHIPPING**

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**SHOES, LEATHER**

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**TEXTILES**

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**TOBACCO**

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100	100



## FAMILY MONEY BRIEFING

## INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

## KEY RATES

## Crash hits the London Life bonuses

London Life's announcement last week that six branches were being closed, the staff was being reduced by 110 and terminal bonuses were being cut by roughly 10 per cent has caused disquiet to say the least. However, Frank Blackmore, head of sales and marketing, is keen to reassure policyholders: "We want to maintain the strength we've got."

He says the rationalization had been planned, but "the stock market collapse acted as a catalyst". The fall was, however, the reason for the reduction in the terminal bonus rates.

To demonstrate the effect, a 25-year endowment policy with a £100-a-year gross premium held by a man aged 28 would have paid out £12,587 on July 1 this year, giving an effective yield of 12 per cent. A similar policy maturing on December 1, 1988, will pay out £11,380, giving an effective yield of 11.3 per cent.

The difference between policies maturing now and those that matured in the spring is less great, as London Life increased the terminal bonus in June this year. Using the same example, a policy maturing on May 1, 1988, would have paid out £17,755, giving an effective net yield of 11.5 per cent.

The official rate of interest charged on beneficial loans is being reduced from 11.5 per cent to 10.5 per cent, with effect from December 1. A beneficial loan is a cheap or interest-free loan provided by an employer. The benefit received on such loans by directors or employees earning £8,500 or more, including any benefits and expenses payments, is taxable. The taxable element is the difference between the interest paid, if any, during the tax year, and the interest calculated by using the official rate. No tax is payable if the benefit amounts to less than £200 a year.

At the same time, the interest rate on unpaid and overdue tax is being reduced from 9 per cent to 8.25 per cent.

Barclays Bank has extended the range of benefits available under its Travelling Money Service. Holders of Barclaycard, Barclaycard Connect and Barclaycard Premier can now order travellers' cheques, foreign currency and travel insurance by telephone. Their orders are usually sent by registered post within 24 hours. The service costs £1.95.

In addition, customers using the service can now order Travelling Money Plus, for an extra £3.95. Travelling Money Plus provides membership of the International Discount Club, which offers discounts on goods and services in various European countries; a Tourist in Distress Service, operated 24 hours a day by Trans-Care International; and back-up medical insurance of up to £100,000 underwritten by Norwich Union, to cover medical expenses if the traveller's own insurance is insufficient.

People who are intending to take out a lump sum personal equity plan in the new year can enjoy the benefit of a discount from Save & Prosper—provided they are prepared to part with their money early.

Save & Prosper will have its initial plan charge from the usual 1.5 per cent plus VAT to 0.75 per cent plus VAT. On a maximum lump sum investment of £2,400, this can mean a saving of more than £20 when plans are started in January.

The discount will apply to all early lump sum applications, accompanied by a cheque for investment, which are received by Save & Prosper between now and December 31.

The trick is to get the timing right. Cheques received before the end of the year will be placed in non-interest-bearing deposits, so there is nothing to gain from sending in an application too early. The gamble of cutting it too finely, of course, is that postal applications may be delayed. Save & Prosper will be making the usual initial plan charge



of 1.5 per cent plus VAT on all applications and investments received after December 31.

The latest edition of Chase de Vere Investments' PEPGUIDE was published this week. Details of 145 schemes are provided, ranging from charges to withdrawal penalties. The guide costs £2 from Chase de Vere Investments, 63 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3JX.

TSB England & Wales has launched a new loan scheme for family doctors. The loans can be for either the purchase or the improvement of surgery premises and are designed to take advantage of the Government's Cost Rent Scheme for general practitioners. TSB will offer up to 100 per cent of the capital required over a maximum period of 25 years. Doctors will be able to fix the level of monthly repayments for a minimum of five years to aid budget forecasts, and to defer the capital and interest repayments until rental payments under the Government scheme begin.

The rate will be TSB base rate plus 1 or 1.25 per cent, depending on the term of the loan. Details are available from all branches of TSB England & Wales.

BANKS	Nominal rate				Compounded return at tax rates				Min/max investment				Notice				Contact
	27%	45%	60%		27%	45%	60%										
Ordinary Dep A/c	3.00	3.02	2.28	1.65	1 min	0 min	7 day	7 day	1 min	0 min	7 day	7 day	1 min	0 min	7 day	7 day	01-600 6020
Girobank	3.25	3.28	2.47	1.80													
Fixed Term Deposits:																	
National Westminster	6.13	6.13	4.62	3.35	10,000-24,999	5 min	10,000-24,999	5 min	10,000-24,999	5 min	10,000-24,999	5 min	10,000-24,999	5 min	10,000-24,999	5 min	01-726 1000
Midland	5.88	5.88	4.30	3.02	10,000-24,999	5 min	10,000-24,999	5 min	10,000-24,999	5 min	10,000-24,999	5 min	10,000-24,999	5 min	10,000-24,999	5 min	01-726 1000
Barclays High Rate Dep	5.55	5.55	4.18	3.04	10,000-24,999	5 min	10,000-24,999	5 min	10,000-24,999	5 min	10,000-24,999	5 min	10,000-24,999	5 min	10,000-24,999	5 min	01-260 8000

BUILDING SOCIETIES	Nominal rate				Compounded return at tax rates				Min/max investment				Notice				Contact
	27%	45%	60%		27%	45%	60%										
Ordinary A/c	5.00	5.06	3.81	2.77	1 min	0 min	7 day	7 day	1 min	0 min	7 day	7 day	1 min	0 min	7 day	7 day	
Brimsley & West	7.15	7.15	5.39	3.92	250 min												
Bradford & Bingley	7.15	7.15	5.39	3.92	500 min												
Cheltenham & Gloucester	7.50	7.50	5.66	4.11	1,000 min												
Northern Rock	7.75	7.75	5.84	4.25	5,000 min												
Nationwide Non-Resid	8.05	8.06	6.07	4.41	10,000 min												

MONEY FUNDS	Nominal rate				Compounded return at tax rates				Min/max investment				Notice				Contact
	27%	45%	60%		27%	45%	60%										
Altkem Money Monthly Inc	6.21	6.39	4.81	3.50	1,000 min												01-638 6070
Allied Arab HCA	6.87	7.09	5.34	3.88	3,000 min												01-629 8802
Bank of Scotland	6.17	6.35	4.78	3.48	2,500 min												01-626 8000
Barclays High Rate Dep	6.38	6.53	4.92	3.58	1,000 min												01-626 1567
Brimsley & West	6.63	6.79	5.12	3.72	2,500 min												01-588 2777
Brimsley & West	6.50	6.64	5.05	3.69	2,000 min												01-741 4941
HFC Trust & Savings	7.50	7.64	5.76	4.19	5,000 min												01-236 8391
Henderson Chase A/c	6.17	6.35	4.78	3.48	2,500 min												01-388 3211
Lloyds Investment A/c	6.81	6.99	5.22	3.80	1,000 min												01-407 1000
Lloyds Investment A/c	6.70	6.70	5.05	3.67	5,000 min												01-407 1000
Lloyds HCA	5.00	5.12	3.86	2.81	1,000 min												01-626 4588
W&G HCA	6.49	6.69	5.04	3.67	2,500 min												01-626 4588
W&G HCA	6.00	6.20	4.67	3.40	10,000 min												01-626 4588
W&G HCA	6.13	6.26	4.72	3.43	2,000 min												01-726 1000
W&G HCA	6.25	6.40	4.82	3.51	10,000 min												01-726 1000
W&G HCA	6.21	6.36	4.79	3.48	1,000 min												01-236 8392
W&G HCA	6.31	6.46	4.87	3.54	10,000 min												01-236 8392
W&G HCA	6.40	6.56	4.92	3.58	2,500 min												01-236 8392
W&G HCA	6.77	6.93	5.27	3.83	1,000 min												01-928 9771
W&G HCA	6.20	6.35	4.78	3.48	2,500 min												01-557 0201
W&G HCA	6.00	6.18	4.66	3.39	500 min												0708 768696
W&G HCA	6.02	6.20	4.67	3.40	2,500 min												0708 768696
W&G HCA	6.38	6.53	4.91	3.58	2,500 min												0708 768696
W&G HCA	6.38	6.53	4.91	3.58	2,500 min												0708 768696
W&G HCA	6.38	6.53	4.91	3.58	2,500 min												0708 768696
W&G HCA	6.38	6.53	4.91	3.58	2,500 min												0708 768696

NATIONAL SAVINGS	Nominal rate				Compounded return at tax rates				Min/max investment				Notice				Contact
	27%	45%	60%		27%	45%	60%										
Ordinary A/c	6.00	6.17	4.65	3.38	1-10,000	8 day	1-10,000	8 day	1-10,000	8 day	1-10,000	8 day	1-10,000	8 day	1-10,000	8 day	041-6494555
Investment A/c	10.00	7.30	5.50	4.00	5-100,000	1 mth	5-100,000	1 mth	5-100,000	1 mth	5-100,000	1 mth	5-100,000	1 mth	5-100,000	1 mth	041-6494555
Income Bond	10.50	7.67	5.78	4.20	2,000-100,000	3 mth	2,000-100,000	3 mth	2,000-100,000	3 mth	2,000-100,000	3 mth	2,000-100,000	3 mth	2,000-100,000	3 mth	041-6494555
Deposit Bond	10.50	7.67	5.78	4.20	100-100,000	3 mth	100-100,000	3 mth	100-100,000	3 mth	100-100,000	3 mth	100-100,000	3 mth	100-100,000	3 mth	041-6494555
General Extension Rate	6.51	6.51	6.51	6.51	25-1,000	8 day	25-1,000	8 day	25-1,000	8 day	25-1,000	8 day	25-1,000	8 day	25-1,000	8 day	081-3864900
Yearly Plan	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	20-200/mth	14 day	20-200/mth	14 day	20-200/mth	14 day	20-200/mth	14 day	20-200/mth	14 day	20-200/mth	14 day	081-3864900
Retail Price Index: Sep	102.4	102.4	102.4	102.4													

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS	Nominal rate				Compounded return at tax rates				Min/max investment				Notice				Contact
	27%	45%	60%		27%	45%	60%										
FPS (Management) Ltd	8.00	8.00	6.56	5.36	1,000 min	1 yr	0892 30488										
FPS (Management) Ltd	8.00	8.00	6.56	5.36	1,000 min	2 yrs	0892 30488										
FPS (Management) Ltd	8.00	8.00	6.56	5.36	1,000 min	3 yrs	0892 30488										
FPS (Management) Ltd	8.00	8.00	6.56	5.36	1,000 min	5 yrs	0892 30488										
Blackhorse Life	8.00	8.00	6.56	5.36	2,000 min	5 yrs	0834 405161										

LOCAL AUTHORITY TOWN HALL BONDS	Nominal rate				Compounded return at tax rates				Min/max investment				Notice				Contact
	27%	45%	60%		27%	45%	60%										
Northampton	6.58	6.58	4.98	3.61	500 min	1 yr	01-407 2767										
Kirkcaldy	6.75	6.75	5.08	3.70	500 min	2 yrs	01-407 2767										
Kirkcaldy	6.75	6.75	5.08	3.70	500 min	3 yrs	01-407 2767										
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min	4 yrs	01-407 2767										
Vale of Glamorgan	6.13	6.13	4.62	3.36	500 min	5 yrs	01-407 2767										
Vale of Glamorgan	6.13	6.13	4.62	3.36	500 min	6 yrs	01-407 2767										
Vale of Glamorgan	6.13	6.13	4.62	3.36	500 min	7 yrs	01-407 2767										
Vale of Glamorgan	6.13	6.13	4.62	3.36	500 min	8 yrs	01-407 2767										
Taff Ely	6.48	6.48	4.88	3.55	1,000 min	9 yrs	01-407 2767										
Taff Ely	6.48	6.48	4.88	3.55	1,000 min	10 yrs	01-407 2767										

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS	Nominal rate				Compounded return at tax rates				Min/max investment				Notice			
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## DON'T WAIT FOR THE MARKET TO TURN

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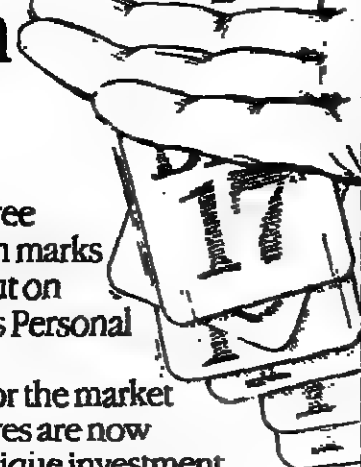
PRIVATE PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT  
106 Hutton Square, 16 Baldwin Gardens, London EC1N 7RJ  
Tel: 01-831 8786 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 7 days a week)  
QUANTUM SYNERGIES LTD. REGISTRATION 2748888 ENGLAND

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01-833 7685  
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DEC 18<sup>TH</sup>



## The heirs who wait

An English woman has been waiting for more than a year to get legal title to the villa she "inherited" in Spain. The owner made a will in England, but it has not yet been accepted as valid by the Spanish courts.

The matter has been further delayed because the owner of the villa died in Austria and his death certificate had to be ratified by the Spanish consulate there.

Meanwhile, the villa is lying empty. The woman can neither sell it nor get rental income from it, and her legal expenses are mounting.

This kind of problem is becoming increasingly common as more people are buying property abroad, especially older people hoping to spend their retirement years in a more equable climate.

All too often they do not bother to get legal advice beforehand, wrongly assuming that a will that is made in Britain is automatically valid throughout the world. Spain and Portugal are popular locations, but similar problems can arise in any foreign country where you have property, investments or bank accounts.

Rodrigo Blanco, a London-based solicitor specializing in Spanish property, said: "You would not expect the courts in Britain to accept without question documents drawn up in other countries. In Spain at least the will is usually accepted as valid eventually but it can take months or even years for the legal formalities to be completed."

Yet most of the delays and extra expenses could be avoided if buyers took the precaution of registering a will in the country where they are buying property. In most countries this is not particularly difficult or expensive.

In Spain, for example, a will can be made and registered for about £150. You do not even have to go to Spain.

Mr Blanco explains: "A Spanish will can be drawn up in Britain or Spain provided it is registered with the authorities in Madrid. If the person dies his estate can then very quickly go to his heirs, after taxes have been paid."

If the property owner dies without registering a will in that country, the "heirs" have

to employ an English or Scottish solicitor to get any will made in Britain confirmed by a notary public as a valid document. In most cases the solicitor will also have to get court confirmation of this.

The situation is even more complicated if there is no will at all. Then the English or Scottish courts have to decide who should inherit the property and provide a certificate to that effect.

After that the certificate or document has to go to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to confirm that the signature is genuine and the document is sealed.

Even that is not the end of the matter. It then has to go to a solicitor in the country

"He's now involved in protracted legal proceedings, which is rather sad because all he wanted to do was forget about the place. At the moment half the house now belongs to his daughter and the other half to no-one," said Ms Wood.

If you are registering a will abroad it is usually necessary to employ a solicitor in that country, but it is sensible also to use a solicitor in Britain. Make sure at least that your solicitor here gets a copy.

Also make sure that your foreign-registered will is not substantially different from any wills and testaments you have made in Britain. Enormous problems can result if competing heirs are relying on different wills to stake a claim on the property.

Inheritance taxes may also be due and these vary from country to country. In Spain the tax can be at least 13 per cent of the estate's value, depending on the heir's relationship to the deceased. More tax would be levied, for example, on an estate inherited from an uncle than from a father. Get advice on the tax laws of the country concerned before buying.

The same precautions should be taken if you are buying shares or have other assets abroad, not including those managed in the UK. These form part of your estate and so should be included in any overseas will you make.

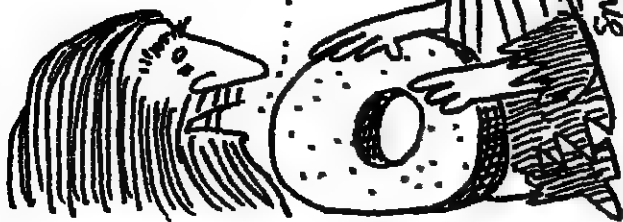
The house is being let as holiday accommodation by a letting agent, but the daughter is not receiving regular rent. She is also worried that the property is being allowed to deteriorate, though there is little she can do about it because she does not yet have legal title. She is understandably reluctant to spend money on repairs in case she loses the case.

"I'm confident this case will

concerned and finally to that country's courts. Meanwhile, legal and court fees mount up. An Edinburgh woman has waited more than two years to get title to a house in Spain. The house was owned by her stepmother who had registered a will in Spain leaving it to her husband. But he died shortly afterwards, leaving neither a Scottish nor a Spanish will. Under Scottish law his daughter should inherit the property, but without any written will the Spanish courts have not yet agreed she is the legal heir.



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## How undeclared profits will find you out

### TAX

Two partners in a London casino decided to open bank accounts under false names and deposited some deed boxes at the bank.

In September 1977 the two men asked if they could have access to their deed boxes. While carrying them from the vault the securities clerk noticed that the boxes seemed very light and concluded they probably contained very little.

As soon as the partners received the boxes they picked them up and shook them, though they did not at that stage open them. Because they were unhappy that their deed boxes seemed unaccountably empty, the casino proprietors demanded to see the manager.

About four weeks later the bank manager deposited £5,000 into each of their accounts. This apparent generosity was not unconnected with the criminal activities of the bank manager - he and another member of the branch staff had been helping themselves from several accounts.

However, no charges were brought against the manager or his accomplice. Neither of the customers was prepared to give evidence about the affair.

### First appeal is to the commissioners

Nevertheless, it seems that one of the partners had let slip that as much as £80,000 had disappeared from the boxes. Traces of some money that may have come from this source also turned up in the form of three bank slips for £500 each in £5 notes and issued by the bank for the casino. These were found in the bank manager's old desk.

Not surprisingly, the Inland Revenue decided the deed boxes had contained undeclared profits from the casino and issued an assessment based on the £80,000.

The partners were faced with a huge tax bill on money they did not have. It is worth recalling that this all took place when the top rate of tax on earned income was still 83 per cent.

The partners appealed against the assessments to the tax commissioners - the first stage in the appeals procedure. Taking all the evidence together, of clandestine activities, and lack of co-operation with the police in their investigations and prosecutions as well as the tell-tale bank slips, the commissioners ruled that the deed boxes had in fact contained undeclared profits.

They chose not to believe the casino owners, who insisted that the boxes contained only personal, though valuable, possessions. However, the tax assessments themselves were reduced substantially - to £11,970.

The partners appealed to the High Court (Les Croupiers Casino Club v Patterson 1987) and then the Court of Appeal, both of which basically gave them the thumbs-down. So they had to pay at least some tax on the cash that had apparently been stolen.

The moral probably is that not all the risks involved in evading tax are necessarily directly associated with the taxmen themselves. There are other hazards.

One snag with black money is quite simply how to invest it. Many people faced with the problem of keeping money that officially does not exist simply hold it in the form of paper money, frightened that any interest will come to light and betray them.

The trouble here is that even if it is not stolen or eaten - there are several hair-raising stories of paper money hoards being devoured by insects, rodents or family pets - the cash will be steadily depreciated by inflation. Even 5 per cent inflation will cut the value of cash by about a quarter in only seven years.

A simple change of bank note design can also cause severe discomfort to long-term holders of paper money.

Even shipping cash abroad can involve serious problems, though it is now easier after the abolition of exchange controls. With the increasing trend towards the exchange of information between Revenue authorities on an international scale, this approach is not without its risks.

Then there are the activities of the Revenue itself. These may include following up advertisements for services to see if the business behind the telephone number has made itself known to the VAT man and the Revenue.

And there is an army of informers, from nosy neighbours to envious employees, as well as former spouses and lovers, who may all carry tales to sympathetic and patient taxmen.

In any case, there is theoretically no limit on the number of years that can pass after an offence for the taxman to take action.

The curious thing is that nowadays there are enough tax shelters to satisfy almost anyone who wishes to invest without paying the taxman. Enterprise zone buildings, business expansion schemes and, above all, pensions provide the investor with an effective 100 per cent deduction against tax and far better investments than the covert alternatives.

In many cases, tax evasion is now not just risky but also unnecessary.

Danby Bloch and  
Raymond Godfrey

## FAMILY MONEY/3

# Customer's double trouble

### CHEQUES

The Abbey National's recent announcement of its plans to develop Cheque-Save into a full current account banking service for all was met with mixed feelings by one Family Money reader, Alan Pardoe (for the record, no relation to the writer).

Mr Pardoe said that when he opened his Cheque-Save he "expected it to be run on the same basis as a bank". However, the problems he has experienced have left him feeling less than happy.

In July he wrote a cheque for £38.73, but when he subsequently checked his records the debit was entered as £58.73. He wrote to John Bayliss, general manager, marketing, of the Abbey National at the beginning of August explaining what had happened, and asking him to arrange examination of the cheque for any possible alteration.

Having heard nothing several weeks later, he sent another letter, which again received no response.

With this query still unanswered, Mr Pardoe encountered a new problem. On October 5 he advised the manager of his local branch in Great Malvern, Worcestershire, that he would like £500 to be transferred from his seven-day notice account to his Cheque-Save account. He was careful to get the timing right because he needed the money to pay stamp duty on a house purchase.

When he issued a cheque dated October 12 in favour of his solicitor, he naturally assumed that the funds had been transferred. Not so. On October 17 he received a letter from the solicitor saying the cheque had been returned. What was even more puzzling was that his pass book had been updated in the meantime, showing that the transfer had been effected.

On contacting the Abbey



Target of complaint: Letters went to Abbey's head office. Left: John Bayliss, who has no record of receiving them

National in Great Malvern he was told that the blame lay with the society's head office, which had rejected the cheque because it was unaware of the transfer. However, he was assured that the cheque would be honoured when it was re-presented.

As it happened, unlike the earlier incident where he was £20 worse off, Mr Pardoe suffered no financial loss as a result of the returned cheque. What he did lose, however, was his confidence in the Abbey National. "It seems to me that since the Abbey cannot run their Cheque-Save account with efficiency, they certainly should not be trying to run a bank-style current account," he says.

Family Money contacted the society this week, and both problems have now been

ironed out, although Mr Bayliss has no record of receiving either letter of complaint.

The cheque to the solicitor was not paid immediately because the branch had not transferred the money on time. It was nothing to do with head office, simply human error at the branch, which was caught out by the solicitor who specially presented the cheque.

Similarly, a mistake had been made over the amount of Mr Pardoe's cheque. The words definitely stated "thirty eight" pounds. Unfortunately, the figures were less clear.

The Co-operative bank, which handles the relevant process for the Abbey National, had misread the figures, and failed to observe the amount in words.

The society has apologized for its mistakes and is to re-credit Mr Pardoe's account with £20 as well as the lost interest.

A spokesman for the Abbey National said the society's cheque account operations had been "remarkably smooth", but admitted that "they tend to be more problematic because they're handwritten".

Mr Pardoe's experience serves as a useful lesson: Do not assume that the entries on your statement or pass book are correct. They probably are, but it pays to check.

No doubt the high street banks would also say that the Abbey National is getting a taste of what it is like to run a cheque account.

Amanda Pardoe

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## PEP 87

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- No special charges
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- £420 investment

have already started a PEP this year, PEP 87 could still be available to your spouse or children over 18. But applications must be received by 31st December. After 31st December you will be eligible for Framlington PEP 88, which will be identical in structure to PEP 87 and which will be launched early in the New Year.

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Full first names \_\_\_\_\_ Tax district and reference (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I declare that the information above is true and correct according to the best of my knowledge and belief. I agree to inform you without delay of any change in my circumstances as set out in this form.

FRAMLINGTON PEP 87

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## One look at today's market shows you need a professionally managed portfolio.

## How yesterday's novelty spans the world of today

As the number of unit trusts has increased, the investment areas covered have grown ever more specialized. But there is an alternative. Liz Walkington reports on international unit trusts

Not so long ago a European trust was a novelty, but now there are several directed at just one European country, such as France or Spain.

Nevertheless, there is a continuing demand for more broadly based investments, of which international unit trusts are the supreme example. Although there are some specializing in certain types of stocks, there are no geographical limits on where they may invest.

A unit trust of any type gives the investor a stake in a number of different holdings, thereby offering a spread of risk, rather than shares in just one company. However, if a trust is concentrated in one particular sector or country, this diversification may be of no avail if that whole market goes into decline.

An international trust has wider options. If, for example, the whole British market was falling, there would still be other countries from which to choose.

As it turned out, there was no safe refuge last month, when all markets crashed together, but this is exceptional. Suzy Turner, who manages Sentinel's International Growth fund, explains: "In the longer term, markets tend to move in line with one another, as countries are subject to the same world-wide economic trends. Over short periods, though, they can be out of step, and a fund can exploit the differences."

Even in the short term, there are variations in the fortunes of different markets,

as can be seen in the month-by-month performance results of unit trusts. For example, in May this year, funds invested in Hong Kong and South-East Asia topped the table, while in June the UK sector came to the fore and in August Japanese trusts dominated.

An international fund manager who was quick on his toes might have reaped the benefits from all three of these areas in turn.

In practice, it may not be feasible to switch holdings around on a monthly basis, or at least not completely. However, the more broadly a fund is spread, the better are its chances of having at least some investment in whatever is currently the top-performing market.

Another possibility within an international trust is to invest in markets that are too small or too risky to support a single-country fund. Mexico, for example, does not as yet have a unit trust to itself, but Ms Turner is one manager who has thought it worthwhile to have a small holding in that country.

Equally, it is possible to pick a single sector within a country and ignore the rest. For instance, a trust might put all the money it allots to France

into oil stocks. This would be too risky a strategy for a fund investing solely in France, but within an international portfolio it would represent only a limited part, which could if necessary be balanced by other holdings elsewhere.

Of course, international trusts do have their disadvantages as well. To the extent that they are spread across several countries, they will not suffer too greatly from a fall in one market, but equally the effects of a rise will be diluted.

Another problem is currencies which, most managers



Suzy Turner: Mexico holding

agree, are particularly difficult to get right. The more countries a trust invests in, the more currency positions it will have to take, and hedging the exposure can be an expensive business.

While international trusts are general in a geographic sense, there are some that specialize in certain types of stocks. Examples are smaller companies, fixed interest securities, "ethical" investments and technology.

Some of these specializations, such as smaller companies, are also found in trusts investing solely in one or another of the larger markets, such as the UK or the United States. Others, though, are more recondite. It is hard to imagine a leisure or health care fund being feasible on anything but a world-wide basis.

Another category of trust that is international in nature is the so-called "fund of funds". These funds invest entirely in other unit trusts. They will not always have quite the same freedom of choice as other funds in the sector, as they are restricted to trusts run by the same group.

So if the range does not include, say, an Australian trust, the fund of funds will not have access to that market.

Of course, an investor could assemble his own international portfolio, by buying a collection of different single-country trusts, from any management group he chooses. This, however, would require a considerable outlay of

## The fine art of selection

The advantage of an international unit trust is its broad scope. It can invest anywhere in the world. The corollary is that, with so much to choose from, asset selection becomes a particularly fine art.

There are various possible approaches corresponding to different degrees of activity and levels of risk. At one end of the spectrum, the portfolio might be spread across a range of countries in more or less set proportions, according to the relative size of every market. Such diversification would lower the risk, but returns would also tend to be modest.

At the other end of the scale, the manager may adopt a highly active approach, concentrating on the most attractive-looking markets and switching regularly as prospects alter. This might give greater potential rewards, but carries a higher risk of erroneous judgment.

Investment strategies are often described as being either "top-down" or "bottom-up". Within a single-country fund a top-down approach involves picking a sector first, and then individual stocks within it. On a bottom-up basis the stocks are selected irrespective of sector.

On a world-wide basis the bottom-up strategy is hardly practical, and most funds will be managed top-down at least to the extent that country weightings are the first decision to be made.

There may, however, be a "middle-up-down" variation, in which the sector comes first. Suzy Turner, of Sentinel, explains: "If we favour one sector, such as oil, we may invest in it globally, seeking countries with the most favourably rated oil stocks. To that extent, we may play the same themes through markets, though at other times we choose the markets first, then the sectors."

Ms Turner has no fixed limits on how much of the fund can be invested in any one market, though she would not normally go below 3 per cent. At the other end of the scale as much as 60 or 70 per cent might be put into one country if the market was large enough, and the prospects outstanding.

Earlier this year 40 per cent was in the UK, which is well above its index weighting on a world scale.

Sun Life's Managed Growth trust, by contrast, is designed for the investor seeking a broad spread, and has an upper limit of 40 per cent for any one market.

Within that constraint, though, the fund may still adopt strong views on countries, investing to the maximum or perhaps not at all.

Strategy may also be influenced by "house style", in that if a particular sector is favoured, the practice is for all Sun Life's funds to invest in it.

David Baker, who manages the trust, agrees that the 40 per cent limit can affect performance, and that there are times when he might like to be more heavily weighted in one market. However, Sun Life also has an International Growth fund that is free of restrictions, while this one is intended for investors seeking a low level of risk without undue exposure to any one country.

As well as market prospects, the outlook for currencies can affect the investment decisions. Unit trusts are able to "hedge" a currency exposure, but only by means of a "back-to-back" loan, which involves making a sterling deposit equivalent to the foreign currency borrowed.

This procedure is expensive. Ms Turner explains: "I would need to be sure of making sufficient capital gains in the market to outweigh the cost of hedging." Moreover, there is general agreement among managers that currency movements are the hardest to predict.

One trust that adopts a highly individual approach to stock selection is Whittingdale Challenger. As this is set up to

invest in any or all of equities, cash, bonds, property and commodities, the first stage of the decision process is asset allocation between these categories. The choice between countries is relegated to second place.

Patrick Whittingdale's philosophy is that active management, not only between sectors and countries but also between different types of assets, is the only sure route to success.

At the time of the trust's launch a year ago, he considered that the bull run in equity markets would be over within six months, so the bulk of the fund was directed into bonds and cash deposits.

By the summer, it looked as

if this "mould-breaker" had missed its mark, as it languished near the bottom of the performance tables. The events of last month, however, brought some vindication of its irregular methods. With 95 per cent of its portfolio in cash, the trust had the fifth best result in the sector over October, and now heads the three-month table.

The crash naturally affected the fortunes of international unit trusts as much as others. Of almost 200 in the sector, only eight managed any price gain over October, and six of those were funds devoted specifically to fixed interest securities rather than equities.

The effects were so severe

Continued on facing page



### INTERNATIONAL UNIT TRUSTS/1

both money and time to oversee the investments.

An international trust, on the other hand, offers the world for a single investment, usually of just £500. Moreover, the questions of country selection and currency decisions are in the hands of a professional manager, with considerable research resources to draw on. For the smaller or less knowledgeable investor this can have great appeal.

Even for the more experienced an international trust has its attractions. It may not outperform the top fund in the best market in the short term, but over a longer period a well managed trust should prove its worth.

### PERFORMANCE TABLES

#### GROWTH FUNDS

1 year, top three	
Vanguard Abrington Fund	141.8
Brown International Growth	130.5
Brown Shapley Portfolio	128.3
1 year, bottom three	
Oppenheimer International Growth	87.7
Carson Global	71.5
Franklin International Growth	71.0
6 years, top three	
Brown International Growth & Income	422.5
Schroder Progressive	417.6
Martin International Growth	391.6
15 years, bottom three	
M&I Biotech World Technology	98.1
Bridge International Recovery	138.1
Allied Dunbar Technology	128.0

#### INCOME FUNDS

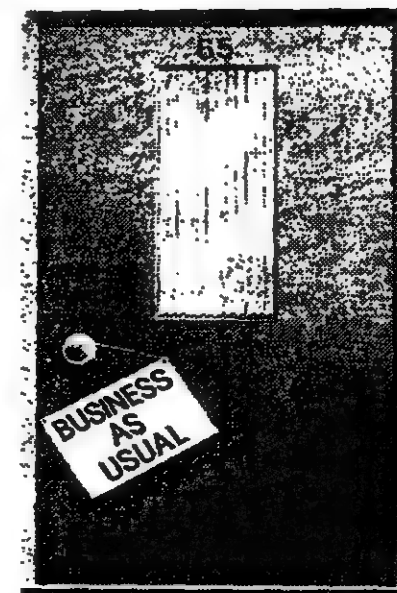
1 year, top three	
San Life Managed Income	121.1
Dunelm Income	104.5
Belle Global Income	103.5
1 year, bottom three	
Royal London International Income	74.5
F&C Overseas Income	74.7
Mittham Global Income	61.5

#### FIXED INTEREST FUNDS

1 year, top	
Save & Prosper International Bond	97.2
1 year, bottom	
Legal & General International Bond	68.6
5 years, top	
Mittham World Bond	106.2
1 year, bottom	
Carson International Fixed Interest	122.4

All figures based on current value of £100 invested on 1/1/82. All figures are in pence, including reinvestment of all income.

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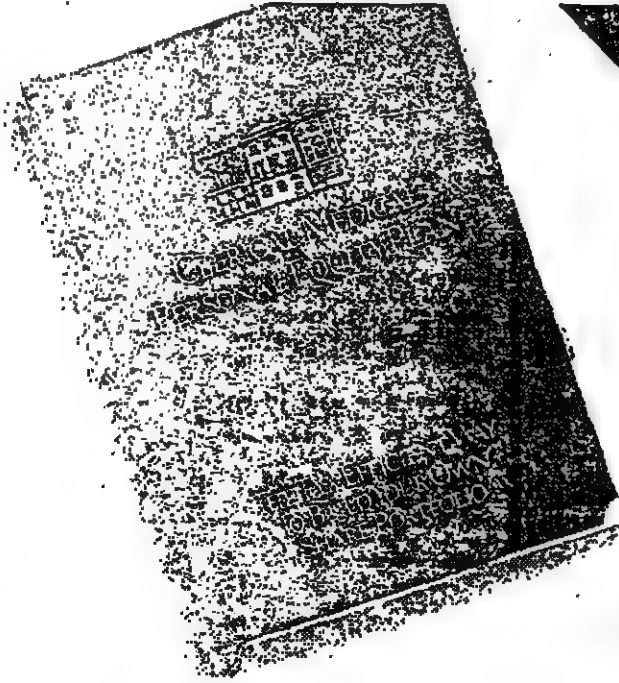
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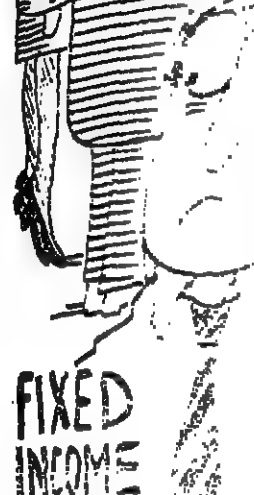
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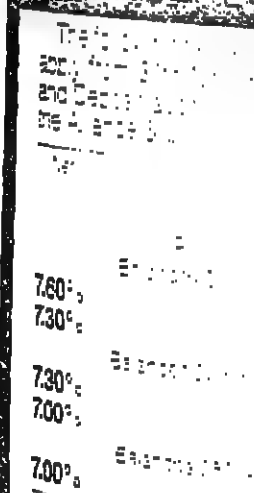
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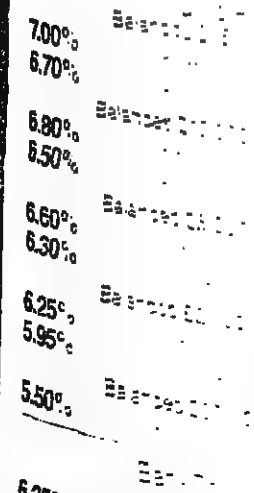
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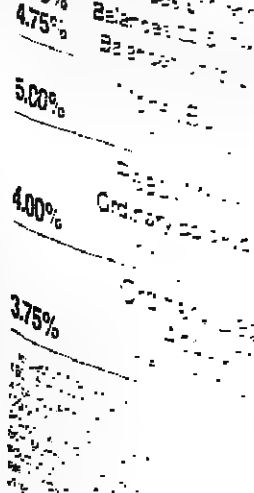
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# The French prices are up again

## WINE

Last week saw the famous Hospices de Beaune sale in Burgundy - the most important wine auction in France.

Since 1859 wines from the Côte de Beaune have been sold regularly, save truly exceptional poor harvests, at this public auction in aid of a local charity.

It is the first serious assessment of the year's crop by the wine trade and the public alike, although under difficult conditions because frequently the wines are passing through the malo-lactic, secondary fermentation.

This year the auction recorded a return to higher prices. There was an average increase of 8.18 per cent, well above the 3.2 per cent French inflation rate.

This year's Burgundy vintage is of fair quality. The whites lack the exciting quality of either 1985 or 1986 but will prove of fair style when shipped in two or more years' time.

The reds show good colour. Tim Marshall, a noted buyer based in Nuits St Georges, who acts for several important UK companies, says the red Burgundies "promise body and fruit with a long finish".

The overall success of the harvest lies in the dry, hot September, which followed a dry, sunny but not very hot August. Two days of severe rain a week before the picking caused acidity levels to fall, but not so developed as the final week was dry with sunshine and cool-drying north-east winds.

Mr Marshall notes that clusters of small berries with high sugar content and great colour and extract, known as *millerandage*, were seen this year, and were present in such fine vintages as 1961, 1969 and 1978.

Last year Hospices prices fell by more than 44.6 per cent for the reds and 27 per cent for the whites. This reflected a fall in both the US dollar and sterling, the large size at auction - 714 *pieces* or cases from 555 in 1985 - and the poor style of the reds.

This year 433 *pieces* of red Burgundy, making 11.05 million French francs, and just 73

pieces of white Côte de Beaune, achieving 3.3 million francs, were sold, with the auctioneer accepting the final bid before the candle went out on every lot.

It appears, therefore, that Burgundy has returned to higher prices after the temporary slump of 1986, but has been sensible with the increases.

In part, this reflects the international competition for one of its chief grape varieties.

Swiss bids created most export interest

The Chardonnay. So many prizes are being won by wine-makers in Australia, New Zealand and California in international competitions that they may have raised prices too quickly in the early to mid-1980s.

By far the greatest export interest was generated by bids from Switzerland, followed by West Germany and Japan. The UK and Canada were next, but there was less success for the United States, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Eire and Denmark.

The Swiss have had a keen market for Burgundy for many years and this year was a continuation of that traditional role.

Among the successful British bidders, Hoskins Brewery, of Leicester, bought Beaune Cuvée Brunet, and the French Horn Motel at Son-

ning-on-Thames, Berkshire, secured Volnay Blondeau.

J.W. Lees and Co, of Manchester, continued its regular purchases at the Hospices.

Lees' buyer Albert Birles obtained Corton Charlotte-Dumay, which he intends to sell *en primeur* either by mail order or through the company's retail outlets such as George Dutton and Son in Chester or Thomas Baty in Liverpool.

Lees already quotes four older vintages sold at the Hospices - 1983 Pommard Dames de la Charité at £224 per dozen bottles, 1983 Beaune Nicolas Rolin at £192, 1985 Beaune Dames-Hospicières at £318, which will be available in mid-December, and 1986 Beaune Nicolas Rolin at 1,760 francs ex-cellar with free six months' storage in bond.

All prices exclude VAT and the last one excludes freight and handling of about £3.02 and duty of £8.82.

Another successful bidder was Majestic Wines with Beaune Brunet. Majestic has 22 wine warehouses spread from Birmingham to Bristol, and from Poole to Wainstead. It offers a 1978 Volnay Cuvée Générale Muteau at £21.90 per bottle including VAT, and two 1983s - Mersault Genevrières Philippe le Bon at £22.50 and Beaune Clos des Avaux at £69 per magnum.

Investors keenly follow the wines of the Hospices de Beaune. The strictly limited stock means there is demand in top hotels and restaurants

that cannot often afford to make the purchases at an early stage. Many private individuals buy for more than their needs and sell the balance.

As examples of current prices, Harrods offers Beaune Cuvée Maurice Drouhin 1984 at a modest £15 (less the cost of a bottle on case orders), while Berry Bros and Rudd (3 St James's Street, London SW1A 1EG) list a white in Meursault Charmes, Cuvée de Baheze de Lanlay 1983 at £32, and two fine reds - 1982

**Merchants store for a small charge**

Beaune Cuvée Brunet at £11.90 and 1973 Beaune Nicolas Rolin at £40 per magnum. All prices include VAT.

Finally, for those without a temperature-controlled cellar or who move frequently, most reputable wine merchants will store for a modest charge. However, you must insure your stock at its current replacement value, not at its original cost.

**Conal Gregory**  
Master of Wine

**Portfolio Gold**

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 23).

By far the greatest export interest was generated by bidders from Switzerland, followed by West Germany and Japan. The UK and Canada were next, but there was less success for the United States, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Eire and Denmark. The Swiss have had a keen market for Burgundy for many years and this year was a continuation of that traditional role.

Among the successful British bidders, Hosking Brewery of Leicester, bought Beaune-Cyrot-Chaudron, and the French Horn Motel at Soissons.

# Why so many want to lose money on horses

Our article on investment in horses, (Family Money 10 October) generated tremendous interest. MIHIR BOSE looks again at the money being lavished on four-legged animals

So what is making so many of you want to invest in horses? All the racing experts warn that, for the ordinary punter, trying to own a horse, either through a syndicate or a company, is not investment.

Colin Tinkler, who is just launching the fourth edition of Full Circle Thoroughbred Racing plc, warns punters frankly: "Owning racehorses is just a luxury."

Yet many people seem to want to invest, or possibly spend their money on trying to rub shoulders with Robert Sangster and the fabulous Makoum brothers. Part of the attraction is undoubtedly the feeling that you can own a little part of a racehorse for very little money.

Gymcrack Thoroughbred plc claims to have found some takers for shares in the company at £495 each, spread over two years. Gordon Holmes, the managing director, has already bought eight horses, including two whose grandfathers were the great Northern Dancer, probably the greatest stallion in racing history.

Mr Holmes, who originally bought foals and sold them as yearlings, still bitterly recalls

his experience with his horse Wiganthrope.

He bought Wiganthrope for £17,500 and sold it as a yearling for not much profit. It then won the Gymcrack Group II race at York in August 1986 and today it has a stud value of £3 million to £4 million. Mr Holmes says: "It is difficult to pick winners at the foal stage but with the money likely to be invested in Gymcrack I hope to avoid that."

Mr Tinkler's first Full Circle company four years ago started the trend followed by Gymcrack and others - shares in a company owning horses being offered at an affordable price to punters. He insists there is no money to be made in buying and selling horses.

He says: "It is absolute nonsense to claim that you can make money buying or selling horses. Those who buy shares in companies like mine or others should do so only because they enjoy racing and want to have a little bit of fun - but no more."

Then there is the Owners Group run by the Racegoers Club. The club, formed in 1968 to get people involved in racing, has run a series of Owners Groups since 1982. A new one is about to be formed, and Louise Gold, the club's



secretary, is, as usual, looking for 300 owners, every one of whom would contribute £365.

Miss Gold also makes it clear: "I don't want people coming in who cannot afford to lose £365."

Miss Gold hopes to raise £109,000, allowing her to buy two horses and keep them in training for two years. About £40,000 will be spent on acquiring the horses, the rest on training and other costs. Any surplus will be distributed but this is unlikely to be very much.

As with the companies, the Owners Group has a monthly

bulletin, a 24-hour answering service giving information on the horses, such as their chances, and a few perks. Owners who visit racecourses where their horses are running may get into the saddling enclosure and the paddock.

"It is all good fun and that is how the investment should be seen," she says. If investors take the same view, they may have few broken hearts should it all go wrong.

Gymcrack Thoroughbred Racing plc, 0751 73446, Full Circle Thoroughbred Racing plc, 0653 85512, Racegoers Club, 0734 341000

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## LEGAL AND FINANCIAL

## Head hunters in Room 12

As the supply of first-rate lawyers dwindles, the pace of search for these paragons quickens, and the head hunters make their appearance, says Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent, and even firms which shied away from such bloodthirsty activity are beginning to see its bonuses

Head hunting has finally hit the legal profession. The recruitment crisis facing new firms both in and outside London, which are finding it almost impossible now to attract the candidates they need, has spawned a plethora of legal recruitment agencies; and now, in the last few weeks, has come the first such agency which does not object to being called a "head hunter".

Room 12 is already known to city firms as a legal recruitment agency in London. But just a few weeks ago it became part of Directorship Appointments Limited, well known for its head hunting skills; and Room 12 saw every reason to move into a more aggressive form of job filling.

Cyril Batchelor, one of its directors, says: "Without doubt, there is now very

### Head hunting happens everywhere else in the world and the head hunters survive

great difficulty in finding quality lawyers; people with up-market skills are in very great demand, particularly in commercial property and company and commercial law."

Conventional methods of recruiting staff — namely through advertising — are failing to produce an adequate response, and so firms are looking to see what else they can do, he says. Clearly Room 12 sensed there was a market. Mr Batchelor says firms had not actually asked him to head hunt, but now they know it is on offer, they are showing distinct interest. "It enables them to get precisely what they want."

Other agencies have stayed clear of head hunting on the grounds that it would alienate them from large numbers of potential clients. But Mr Batchelor says: "Head hunting happens everywhere else in the world; and the head hunters survive."

The arrival of head hunters is just the latest sign in what is the fastest growing quarter of the legal market: recruitment. Open any legal journal, and the recruitment agencies and their advertisements occupy increasingly large sections of display space.

Ten to 15 years ago there was only a tiny handful of such agencies; now there

are a dozen or so big ones, and perhaps two dozen more smaller ones.

As well as the best known names, there are a host of others: Law Placements; Law Personnel; Hughes-Castell; Meridith Scott Recruitment; Badenoch and Clarke; James Davis and Partners; and Daniels Bates Partnership, to name just a few.

They generally charge around 15 per cent of the first year's salary to private firms, 17 per cent to 18 per cent to industry. And with lawyers' salaries still rising at about some 9 per cent a year, the business is not unprofitable.

The Michael Page Partnership is typical of one of the fast growing newcomers to the scene. The partnership is the legal division of a much bigger consultancy and was started just three years ago.

Simon Anderson, division manager, says: "Accountants were already using recruitment consultants very actively, and we perceived there must be a similar demand in the legal profession."

The partnership has a presence in London, Windsor, St Albans, Leamington, Birmingham, Nottingham, Manchester, Leeds, Glasgow "and world-wide", and most of its business is in private practice, where it deals with all firms, from big city ones to one-man-bands. There are 13 consultants (mostly lawyers), eight of whom are in London, who make the direct contact with the firms and candidates.

There is at present a huge demand, Mr Anderson says, for solicitors in a wide range of new fields of work, and the profession cannot redress that balance within at least three to four years. "And that is one reason why there is such demand for people like ourselves."

Another reason is that the agency can take the slog out of looking for the right candidate. Many undertake what they call "special assignments": interviewing all applicants for a specific job, short-listing them, and even travelling round the country to interview people or undertake recruitment days.

Susanne Dawson, a founder of Link Legal, a new Birmingham agency, says many solicitors are apprehensive about approaching a firm direct. "They don't want everyone looking at their cv and then perhaps being turned down." Her agency, which only started in October, has already had "an incredible response" from firms with vacancies throughout

the country, although most come from the Midlands.

The agency can put in the time that a firm cannot, she says, advertising, making telephone calls and so on. The demand is now such, she says, that she could offer a good qualified candidate perhaps 10 possible vacancies. In one week alone, she had 25 jobs notified, for which there might be some eight candidates hunting.

It is not just solicitors that firms are seeking; a number are out to attract disenchanted barristers, and Susanne Dawson says she has been struck by the influx of applicants from the Bar, many of whom want to take the Law Society qualifying finals.

Some indication of the size of the market comes from the bigger agencies: Reuter Simkin, which started in 1973,

### There is at present a huge demand for solicitors in a wide range of new fields of work

operates in London and in several regional cities. It has some 800 people on its books, according to Anita Dodwell, marketing manager, and the number of firms with vacancies is "not far short of that," but the problem, she says, is the match, exacerbated by the growing specialization of lawyers.

"It's like house hunting: there may be many houses on the market, but not the one you want," Chambers, which specializes in placing lawyers in industry (Reuter Simkin deals in private practice) says it has some 12,000 lawyers on its books, although this includes anyone who has ever registered.

It says some 5,000 are actively looking; and there are some 1,000 vacancies in commerce and industry at the moment, according to one of the consultants, Sonya Rayner. The business of matching is highly skilled, she maintains.

"You have to assess a person's experience, qualifications and personality, which we do through interview where possible. It's not just a question of looking down a computer print-out."

Demand, they all predict, will go on rising as solicitors diversify into new areas of work. Recruitment agencies — and head hunters — are clearly here to stay.

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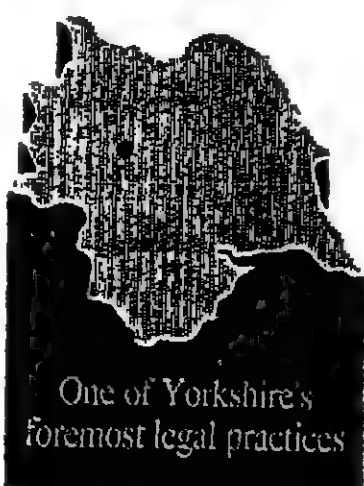
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## Venables' first opponents could not be tougher

Just six weeks ago the return of Peter Shilton to The Dell would have been a sore embarrassment to Clive Nicholl, the club's first-team manager. At that time Southampton were having considerable difficulty in putting the ball past anyone, let alone one of the world's greatest goalkeepers. Shilton was then allowed to leave last summer.

Worse still, the young man who Nicholl had confidently earmarked to take the great man's place between the posts was letting in goals at a fairly suicidal rate. Mark Dimes came to the rescue. Everton, effectively Sharp, managed to score four goals against young Tim Flowers with five shots. "I knew enough to know that when a

Shilton because of Flowers's promise, he was reluctant to leave Wright, also to Derby. His association with the club in England under a centre-back is undiminished despite the various shades of doubt expressed by others about Wright's ability to take the place of the injured defender.


"If he's the best half-playing centre back around," he says.

But if he was sorry to see Wright move on, he can at least regret about the sale of an at least equally talented player in Mark Dimes, to Queen's Park Rangers. A part from that, he would prefer to see the players playing rather than sitting around waiting for suspensions to expire. Nicholl

out," Nicholl said.

With a little foresight, which may have saved Nicholl a world of trouble, he had covered himself while selling Shilton to Derby County by purchasing, from Sheffield United, John Burridge, who has entertained crowd of more clubs than Gypsy Rose Lee. Nicholl said: "I wanted Burridge for his attitude. He exudes luck, happiness, wealth and a winning spirit." Everything that Southampton lacked.

Since rubbing a little Burridge into their wounds, Southampton have steadily built a decent run of wins in so far as the new Sharp and confident ("You can't be talking about me", Nicholl can use afford to joke) are concerned to the new Southampton. Flowers has been loaned out to Swindon, though Nicholl has insisted that he



**Nicholl: a happy man**

says: "I've got a better left back now."

The acquisition of Derek Statham, from West Bromwich Albion, involved a different kind of risk on Nicholl's part than that which arises when someone

League championship. "It's very easy to defend better, you just get more people behind the ball more quickly as Queen's Park Rangers have done this season. Last season we managed it during when we had five men in midfield. We funnelled back with 10 men behind the ball and then when we got possession we had people with the pace of Paul Allen and Queens to break very quickly and support."

"But it's very difficult to have one thing without the other. When people say they're going to make it work defensively, they're saying it's really has to be sacrificed and there's no question about what that is. The Tottenham public like to see a team going forward and if you're not going to score 16 in Tottenham's favour as it was, I think, in Bill Nicholson's first game, they're unhappy with that."

[illegible]

Many Olympic officials disagree with the saying that the object of the Games is to win. They believe that participation, and that lesser competitors should also be exposed to the experience, for the sake of the sport's development in an emerging nation. Those trying to pursue the latter policy find themselves opposed by rivals setting up against them. In the Philippines, for example, General Ramos is grounded that General Garcia is trying to help Jose Siring, the NOC president, find some stability.

Yet the Philippines have much to be satisfied about their status in Asia. After recently completed fourteenth South East Asia Games in Jakarta, they sent a team of 450 to compete in 28 out of 32 sports. They won 32 medals, 12 of the medals table behind Indonesia and Thailand.

At present the Philippines have two of Asia's leading competitors. Lydia De Vega won, unexpectedly, the gold medal for the 100 metres in last year's Asian Games. Scoutmaster P. T. Usha, and in Jakarta she won both sprints and also the long jump. Leopoldo Candancio, a beaten quarter-finalist in the Los Angeles lightweight boxing division, won the silver medal and the gold in Jakarta.

Because of the divisions in policy, Bea Lucero, an Asian champion gymnast, has missed her chance of being in next year's Games because she was not sent to the regional qualification competition. The chaos is compounded by the fact that each of 24 different daily newspapers consistently reports a different angle, seemingly for the sake of controversy. Colima Moynihan should be glad he hasn't got this one to sort out.



